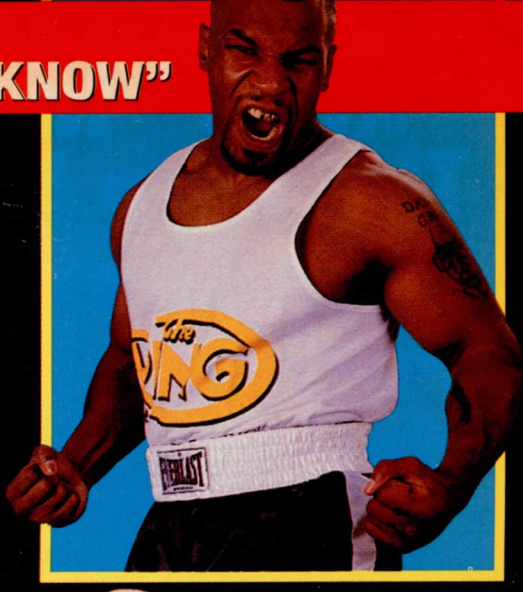
His Earliest Mentor Recalls ...
"THE MICHAEL TYSON I USED TO KNOW"



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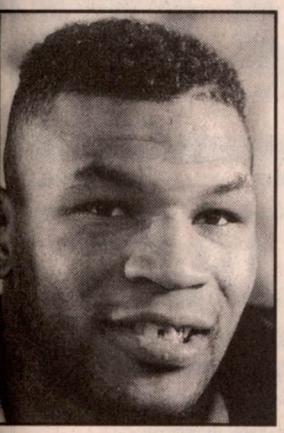

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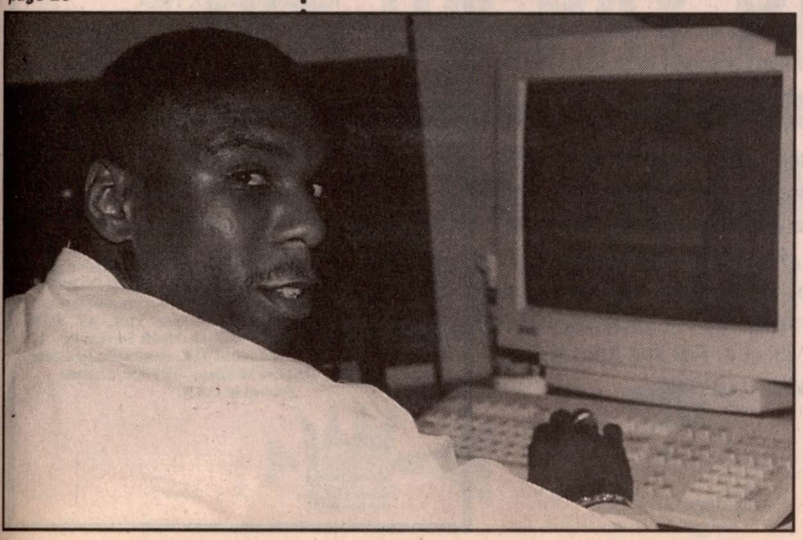

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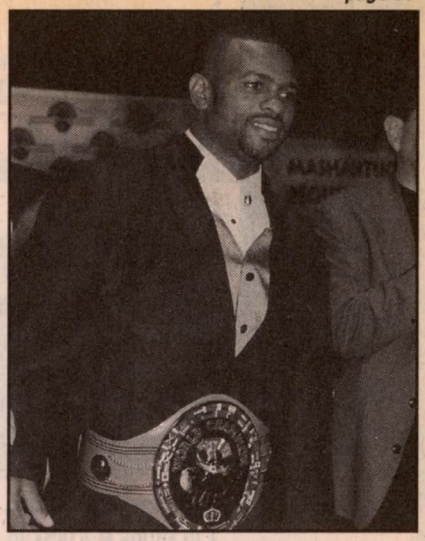

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RINGSIDE

It's been over eight years since I last wrote this column, and a lot has happened to THE RING, boxing, and myself since then. The last time I sat down at a keyboard to cobble together a "Ringside" column, Mike Tyson was still undefeated, Iran Barkley was the WBC middleweight champion, and the keyboard was plugged into an electrical socket in New York City. Today, Tyson doesn't have a boxing license, Barkley is a 230-pound heavyweight, and I'm sitting at a desk in Ambler, Pennsylvania.

But not everything has changed. Even in the chaotic world of boxing there are a few reassuring constants, and THE RING is one of them. It's been a constant in more ways than one. For instance, eight years ago, the magazine was 68 pages and cost $2.25. Today, you get 76 pages for $2.95. Longevity also has something to do with it. This year THE RING celebrated its 75th anniversary, and I've had the privilege of being associated with it, in some capacity or another, for almost a third of that time. I guess we must be doing something right.

Most of all, what separates THE RING from most sports publications is that it's really more than just a magazine, more than the sum parts of its pages, more than the words and photographs that comprise its contents. What makes THE RING so special is that in a society where ethics and standards have been pretty much usurped by greed and corruption, it stands for something.

THE RING has been a staunch advocate of fair play since its birth in 1922, and it was Nat Fleischer, the magazine's founder, who first championed the rights of African-American fighters in an era when he risked alienating the establishment by doing so. It was also Fleischer who continued to recognize Muhammad Ali as world champion after every boxing commission in the country revoked his license for refusing to be inducted into the armed forces, a righteous stance that was eventually upheld by the highest court in the land.

In more recent years, THE RING has been in the forefront of the fight against the invasion of the alphabet governing bodies. And while we haven't been successful in checking their cancer-like growth, we've kept the heat on, exposing the injustice, inequity, and irresponsibility that are the hallmarks of each and every one of these self-appointed, self-serving organizations.

But exposing the rotten underbelly of boxing is only part of THE RING's mission. Celebrating the glorious feats of the men (and now women) who put their lives on the line to bring us the unique drama that only gloved combat can provide has always been the magazines's most fundamental function. From the young prospects who appear each month in "New Faces" to the elite fighters who comprise our "Pound-For-Pound" ratings, THE RING extols the virtues of those who participate in the toughest discipline of them all, giving them the respect and dignity they so richly deserve.

Although there will certainly be some fine-tuning, I'd like to reassure you that a new old-face at the helm will not mean a radical departure from the formula that has proven so successful for over 75 years. And if I err along the way, as I surely will, I'm counting on you, our faithful readers, to let me know about it. For THE RING is, after all, your magazine. I'm just the guy whose job it is to keep it on course.

Nigel Collins
Editor-In-Chief

Volume 76, No. 13 Holiday 1997

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COME OUT WRITING

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THE BEST PUNCHERS

I thought it was a shame that Alexis Arguello did not make Mike Silver's list of boxing's greatest punchers ("The 10 Greatest Punchers Of All-Time," September 1997). Arguello was a patient, methodical puncher with crippling power in both hands. His late-round knockouts of Ruben Olivares, Alfredo Escalera, and Ray Mancini proved he could sustain his power and end a fight at any time—and at three different weights.

Arguello may have peaked at lightweight, but he carried his power into the junior welterweight division, scoring impressive knockouts of Kevin Rooney and Billy Costello. Both fighters were swept off their feet when Arguello landed the big blow.

A couple of other points: Stanley Ketchel the hardest-punching middleweight ever? I've seen tapes of Ketchel, and he was crude and amateurish. Modern-day punchers like Gerald McClellan, Julian Jackson, and John Mugabi all hit harder.

Mike Tyson a schoolyard bully? In his prime (1987-'88), Tyson was a more disciplined and better-schooled fighter than Jack Dempsey ever was. There just wasn't as much talent in the Dempsey era to expose him.

Three others who deserved a mention: Edwin Rosario (who certainly wasn't a great fighter, but definitely meets Silver's criteria), Michael Spinks, and Khaosai Galaxy.

ANDREW A. KANG
Sacramento, CA

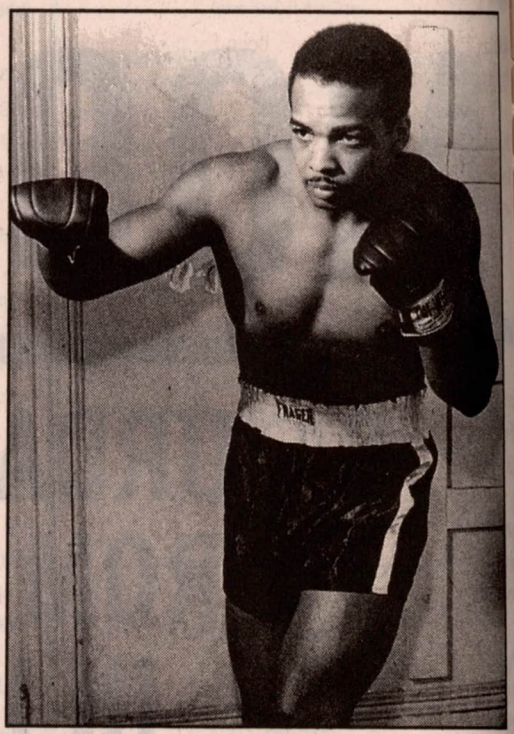


Photo by Muzty Rosengarten

Left off the list of the greatest punchers, Bob Satterfield certainly had the knockout power to warrant consideration. Unfortunately, he was easily knocked out himself.

I enjoyed your article on the 10 greatest punchers of all-time, but the hardest puncher I've ever seen on TV was Bob Satterfield. Unfortunately, he had a glass jaw. I've seen all the great punchers on tape or TV, and he definitely rates right up there with them.

HAROLD CROWE
Jersey City, NJ

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

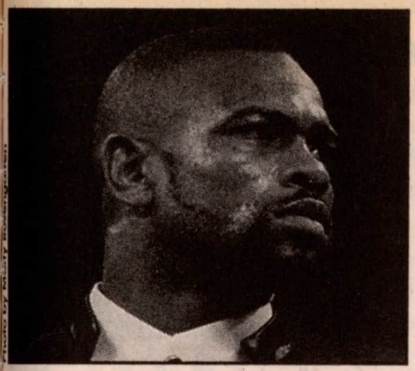
Roy Jones is *the man!*

I just watched Jones put the smack down on Montell Griffin and regain the light heavyweight title. This was total redemption, comparable only to Louis-Schmeling II.

After Jones lost to Griffin on a disqualification, all the critics said he no longer deserved to be number one in the pound-for-pound ratings. Now there is no denying who the best is. The critics just didn't know who they were dealing with, and neither did Griffin.

Pound-for-pound the best in boxing? Without a doubt.

MARC LOISELLE
Redmond, WA



Roy Jones proved to Montell Griffin that he could walk the walk, but some fans feel he would be better off not trying to talk the talk. Jones' arrogant postfight trash-talking took away from an impressive victory.

Every time I think Roy Jones has reached the height of arrogance, he raises the bar. In his post-fight diatribe after his kayo of Montell Griffin, he reached the pinnacle.

While claiming that he wanted to do something to improve the image of boxing, Jones ranted incoherently for the next five minutes. His trash-talking jive routine must have been for the minions because it certainly turned off the sane element.

It is well within the margins of logic and common sense to believe that the only way Jones could improve the image of boxing would be to keep his mouth closed! Jones is one talented fighter, but boxing would be well-served if someone else assumed the role of spokesman.

RON LEZAK
San Jose, CA

A PRINCE OF A GUY

I was glad to see Prince Naseem Hamed get his just dues as the cover subject in your October issue. But a couple of the opinions of the article's author, Ivan Goldman, seemed strongly off-base. Firstly, Goldman claims that "like most superstar boxers, [Hamed] is infinitely more personable and decent than your average tennis, baseball, or basketball mega-athlete." Envision, if you will, Mike Tyson being interviewed, or Vinny Pazienza. Then think about interviews you've seen with Pete Sampras, Cal Ripken Jr., and Michael Jordan.

Secondly, Goldman implied that Naz should not be lumped together with fighters who "try to stand out from the crowd ... stooping to the level of professional wrestlers." Obviously, Goldman wrote this before the lengthy disco and light show that preceded Hamed's nationally televised kayo of Juan Gerardo Cabrera. You know, the one where the prefight spectacular lasted much longer than the fight.

But, hey, nice photos.

DANNY McGINLEY
Somerset, NJ

MARCIANO AND ALI

There is a tendency to underrate Rocky Marciano. In "Battle Of The Legends" (October 1997), Art Rust called him "unskilled." This is an interesting view to have of the only heavyweight champion to have retired undefeated.

Muhammad Ali would not have had an easy time with Marciano. To those who think otherwise, I suggest they go back and view his 1966 title defense against George Chuvalo. Chuvalo was an aggressive fighter, although no one would ever confuse him with Marciano. He gave Ali a body beating for 15 rounds. The scoring of the fight belied its competitive nature.

Also, Ali was not a "220-pound Willie Pep." He was a speed demon, not a defensive master. Ask Henry Cooper, who had Ali knocked out before Angelo Dundee did some fast thinking, if "no one could touch him."

Ali-Marciano would have been a great fight. A young Ali certainly would have had a chance to decision Marciano. But likewise, Marciano would have had a good chance against Ali. He was a great fighter who never quit. He also never lost. I wish the experts would remember that the next time they talk about him.

JULIO FUENTES
Boston, MA

Your panel was right on point: Ali would have outboxed Marciano all night. But historian Art Rust said he thought Joe Louis would've kayoed Ali. If Rust thinks Louis was "The Greatest," then he picked a fighter with an average chin and a sometimes poor defense. And if Rust thinks Ali would've been too big, too fast, and too strong for Marciano, wouldn't he have had the same advantages over the smaller and slower "Brown Bomber"?

STEPHEN DONATELLI
Pittsburgh, PA

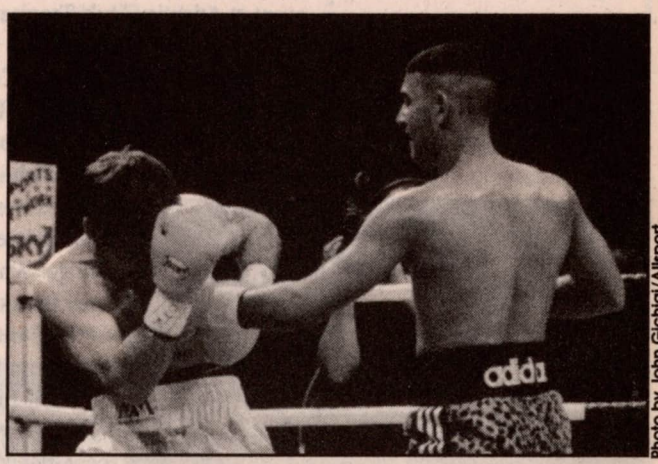


Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

After a lengthy ring entrance which featured a disco and light show, Naseem Hamed disposed of Juan Cabrera with a second round knockout. "The Prince" put on a dominant boxing display, but the prefight gimmickry took away from the match.

WHO'S DUCKING WHOM?

I was disappointed to see that in August, welterweight champion Felix Trinidad moved up to junior middleweight and took on Troy Waters, and not Terry Norris. This was presumably because Norris jumped promoters, from Don King to Bob Arum.

I'm not that naive that I think the world's top fighters care about fighting each other (all they care about is money), but the recent actions of Trinidad and Norris seem hypocritical. Both champions have been calling for big fights for years. But almost as soon as Trinidad left King and briefly fought for Main Events, clearing the way for a showdown with Pernell Whitaker, he returned to King. So did Trinidad really want to fight Whitaker? Apparently not. Similarly, Norris-Trinidad was a done deal, but a few months before the fight date, Norris left King for rival Bob Arum. Did Norris duck Trinidad? Sure seems like it.

All the political maneuvering may be good for the fighters, but as usual, the losers are the fight fans.

THOMAS SKIFFINK
Santa Monica, CA ■

ROUND ONE

KUNG-FU FIGHTING

The question of who would win between a boxer and a martial arts practitioner, like imaginary matches between boxers of different eras, may never be answered. On the other hand, with the circus atmosphere in boxing spreading like an unchecked computer virus, such matches may be just around the corner. Whatever the case, boxing promoter Bernie Dillon offered a forward-looking event at Atlantic City's Tropicana, featuring eight contests between stars of various martial arts disciplines. However, the contests were conducted as standard boxing matches under the supervision of the New Jersey State Athletic Commission.

The show was titled "Over The Line," and the objective was to identify talent capable of moving into the regular professional boxing ranks. Backgrounds included wrestling, judo, jujitsu, tae kwon do, pit fighting, sambo (a hybrid of judo and wrestling), and even powerlifting. But while the contestants were explosive, violent, and entertaining, it was painfully evident to the boxing intelligentsia that a gulf exists that will take a feat of engineering to bridge. While the contestants are certainly formidable in their own disciplines, their transition to boxing will take some work.

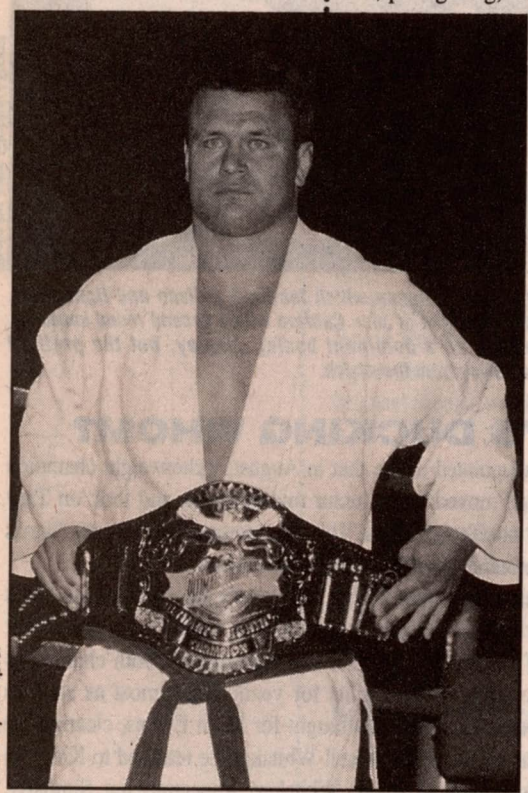


Photo by Bill Apter

An accomplished martial artist and former Ultimate Fighting champion, Oleg "The Russian Bear" Taktarov was one of the few competitors at "Over The Line" who seemed well-suited for boxing.

Disparities stem from the different objectives of the two sports: Martial artists aim for the quick kill, boxers settle in for the long haul. The most evident shortfall for these competitors was a serious lack of stamina. Forget that the bouts were scheduled for four rounds. Half of them ended in the first, and those contestants who made it to the second were left defenseless from fatigue.

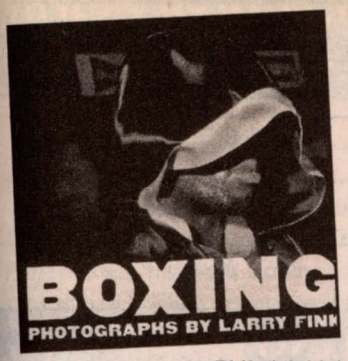
Speaking of defense, it was conspicuous by its absence. These warriors evidently aren't used to being around after getting hit! Many turned their backs to flee, ending up on the ropes purely for wont of anywhere else to turn. And for all their offensive formidability, there is a need for re-education on how to hit with a glove. When Finland's Tony Halme, the lone competitor with professional boxing experience, scored a spectacular one-punch kayo, he failed to turn the punch over and left the ring holding an injured wrist.

And while boxers generally go about the task in a coldly efficient manner, these protagonists seemed to incorporate threat and intimidation into the game plan. While none were unsportsmanlike in combat, menacing appearances seemed to fit with the rush to a quick and decisive judgment. Shaved heads, tattoos, ripped torsos, and generally bold body language help set the stage for instant Armageddon. One powerlifter, Hank Hill, was so massive that he sent a shockwave through the crowd merely by disrobing, only to prove too muscle-bound to deliver an effective blow. Hill succumbed early in the second round to Oleg Taktarov, a jujitsu and sambo black belt.

The event did produce a few entrants who showed promise, such as heavyweight John Marsh, and Daniel Taze, a middleweight who claims to have sparred with Terry Norris. But the larger issue, the question of superiority between boxers and martial artists, is like asking who would win between a golfer and a bowler; it's a matter of whose game is being played. Or better yet, perhaps it's irrelevant. For now, the best place to recruit professional boxers is still the amateurs.

—J. R. Jowett

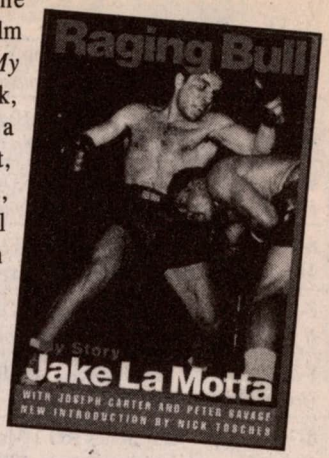
THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



If you go for the gritty behind-the-scenes aspect of the Sweet Science, *Boxing: Photographs By Larry Fink* (104 pages clothbound, powerHouse Books, $49.95) is for you. Fink, a two-time National Endowment for the Art Fellow, finds beauty in the peeling walls of a shabby dressing room (at Philadelphia's Blue Horizon, where many of his photos are taken), the liniment-smeared back of a fighter, and the anxious look on the face of a grizzled trainer as he watches his charge perform. There are also magnificently composed, black & white portraits of fighters warming up in the wings, toiling in the gym, and otherwise preparing for combat.

What the book lacks, for the most part, is the drama that unfolds once the bell sounds. There are a handful of fight shots, but even these don't capture any significant action. Most likely, that's what Fink had in mind all along—a pictorial essay of boxing beyond the ropes. But for me, it's only when juxtaposed with the rigors of the ring that the peripheral stuff becomes truly meaningful.

—Nigel Collins

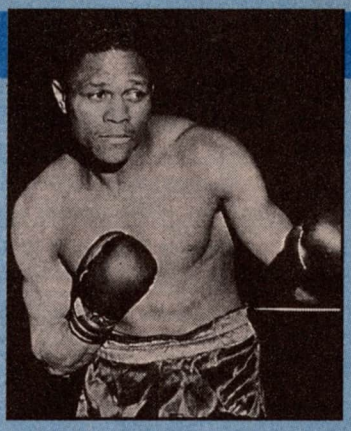


Better known for the Academy Award winning film it spawned, *Raging Bull: My Story* (222 pages paperback, Da Capo Press, $13.95) is a stirring autobiography that, though critically praised, went publicly ignored until Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorcese brought Jake LaMotta's story to the screen in 1980. Just reissued with a new introduction by Nick Tosches, LaMotta's book provides numerous insights that the film version could not, opportunities to understand precisely in LaMotta's words the confusion and rage that controlled his life.

Originally published in 1970, *Raging Bull* is most intriguing as a study of LaMotta's growth; the book seems at its heart to be a chronicle of the mistakes and embarrassments that marked LaMotta's life, and he reflects on them with a what-a-stupid-young-punk-I-was tone. The boxing scenes are riveting as well, but it is as a revealing, critical self-reflection that this book succeeds most.

—Eric Raskin

LLOYD MARSHALL, 1915-1997



Marshall: Uncrowned but not unrecognized

According to boxing statistician Bob Yalen, there were 213 bouts that were advertised as being for a world title in 1996. That's up from 197 the year before, and both of the figures take into account only five of the nine or so governing bodies currently minting their own championships. No wonder it seems that everyone who takes out a license to fight is guaranteed a chance to become a champion of some alphabet group's version of the world.

Under the circumstances, today the idea of an uncrowned champion is almost inconceivable. But that's the only title Lloyd Marshall ever got in a 14-year pro ring career (1937-1951) that saw him defeat Ken Overlin, Babe Risko, Teddy Yaroz, Lou Brouillard, Ezzard Charles, Anton Christoforidis, and Jake LaMotta—all of whom held or would hold either the middleweight, light heavyweight, or heavyweight titles in their own careers. But Marshall never fought any of them with a title on the line.

After a sterling amateur career, Cleveland native Marshall turned pro in Sacramento, California, where he died on August 11, at age 81. After just four bouts, he was fighting main events in the Bay area, meeting light heavyweight contenders like Swede Berglund and Johnny Romero.

How good was Marshall? In addition to the above-named stars, on December 13, 1942, he won a 10-round decision over Charley Burley, considered by many experts as the greatest modern-era fighter who never won a crown.

"He was a wonderful boxer and a great puncher," recalls San Francisco's Ray Lunney, a contemporary of Marshall's who was himself a top lightweight contender in the late-1930s and early-'40s. "Lloyd Marshall belongs on anybody's list of truly great fighters, and it's a shame he never got a chance to prove it in a championship fight."

Although his name does not appear on the roster of champions, Marshall's exceptional talent was finally recognized last year when he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
7-28-97	Jorge Eliecer Julio W 12 Oscar Maldonado	Prime	b	C+	C+	B+
Nineteen-year-old Maldonado almost pulls off major upset						
7-29-97	Larry Holmes W 10 Maurice Harris	USA	h	B-	B	C-
Dull fight turns out to be total robbery; no way Holmes won						
8-2-97	Angel Manfredy KO 8 Jorge Paez	HBO	jl	B	B+	B
Paez tries, but "El Diablo" too young and powerful						
8-2-97	**Shane Mosley W 12 Phillip Holiday**	**HBO**	**IBF l**	**A-**	**A**	**C**
Mosley wins crown, but we were expecting so much more						
8-3-97	Jose Luis Rivera KO 6 Rocky Gannon	ESPN2	lh	C	B	A-
If you like gore and guts, this was your Fight of the Year						
8-5-97	Reggie Green W 12 Ray Oliveira	USA	NABF jw	B	B	B
Upset! Green controls pace against sparkless Oliveira						
8-7-97	**Roy Jones KO 1 Montell Griffin**	**PPV**	**WBC lh**	**A**	**A-**	**B-**
Only 151 seconds, but worth the PPV money to see Jones fight like this						
8-7-97	Derrick Gainer KO 9 Manuel Medina	PPV	jl	C+	B	C+
Impressive win; Gainer forces Medina into defensive mode from start						
8-7-97	Ezra Sellers KO 1 John McClain	PPV	h	C-	C	C-
Upset! Sellers scores kayo immediately after McClain switches to lefty						
8-8-97	Terry Norris KO 2 Joaquin Velasquez	ESPN	jm	B+	D	F
Velasquez a late sub, but that's no excuse for total mismatch						
8-9-97	**Vince Phillips KO 3 Micky Ward**	**ABC**	**IBF jw**	**A-**	**B-**	**C-**
Was turning into a good one when Ward suffered fight-ending cut						
8-9-97	Adan Vargas KO 4 Enrique Orozco	Fox Sports	b	C	B-	C+
Fun while it lasts; Vargas rises from third-round knockdown						
8-11-97	Marius Frias KO 9 Jesse Magana	Prime	jf	C	B	B
Magana can't get close to southpaw; takes a pounding						
8-12-97	Joseph Kiwanuka KO 7 Thomas Reid	USA	NABF sm	C+	C-	C-
Winner walks down Reid, pounds him until inevitable stoppage						
8-19-97	Jesus Chavez KO 4 Wilfredo Negron	USA	NABF jl	C+	B-	C
Chavez is all-action as usual; Negron offers minimal resistance						
8-23-97	Felix Trinidad KO 1 Troy Waters	PPV	jm	A-	B-	F
Sub Waters dropped by first punch that connects						
8-23-97	**Ricardo Lopez KO 5 Nene Sanchez**	**PPV**	**WBC s**	**A**	**B+**	**B-**
A showcase for Lopez, who desperately needs better—and bigger—opposition						
8-23-97	**Wilfredo Vazquez W 12 Roque Cassiani**	**PPV**	**WBA f**	**A-**	**C+**	**B**
Decent action fight, though a bit one-sided						
8-23-97	**Julio Cesar Green W 12 William Joppy**	**PPV**	**WBA m**	**A-**	**B**	**C**
Bad decision in fight that turned into a stinker after thrilling third round						
8-23-97	Christy Martin W 8 Isra Girgrah	PPV	jw	B-	B	B+
Girgrah wins over crowd with gutty performance, but can't match Christy's power						
8-23-97	Merqui Sosa KO 2 Glenn Thomas	Fox Sports	lh	C	C-	F
Sub Thomas quits in corner after two-round non-effort						
8-24-97	Jose Rivera W 10 Teddy Reid	ESPN2	w	C-	D	D
If sub Reid's a 10-round fighter, then Rivera is Sugar Ray Robinson						
8-25-97	Melchor Cob Castro W 12 Jesus Chong	Prime	jfl	B+	A-	B+
Castro more aggressive than usual and wins almost every round						

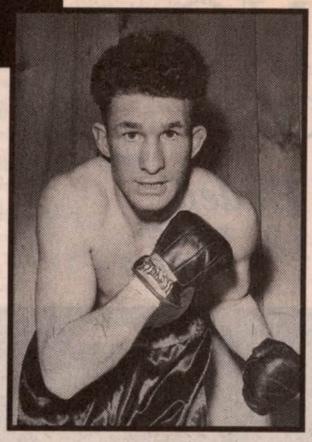
Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

HOLLYWOOD GOES ONE-FOR-TWO



Jenkins' story to hit the screen

The boxing news out of Hollywood is half good.

W.C. Heinz, editor of *The Fireside Book Of Boxing* and author of *The Professional*, has been hoping for years someone would get interested in making a film based on the life of Lew Jenkins, the wild Texan who became lightweight champion of the world in 1940 and who might have become one of the greatest of all-time had he ever trained seriously, given up motorcycles, and quit drinking booze between rounds instead of water.

Whatever his shortcomings in the ring, Jenkins had none as an American hero. During the Korean War, he re-enlisted in the U.S. Army and was decorated for gallantry after saving the lives of fellow soldiers who were trapped behind enemy lines. Jenkins died in 1981.

Now, reports Heinz, a screenplay is finally in the works on a Jenkins film. The movie would be based on Heinz' stories about the former champion in his acclaimed compendiums *Once They Heard The Cheers* and *American Mirror*, with additional assistance from Jenkins' son, Lew Jr.

Now for the bad news: The fourth option has run out for a big screen translation of Heinz' *The Professional*, published in 1958 and considered by many to be the finest and truest novel about boxing ever written.

—Pete Ehrmann

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

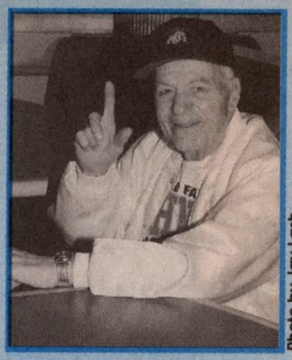


Photo by Jay Lash

Tocco: Indicating his next residence

Johnny Tocco, legendary owner of the Ringside Gym in Las Vegas, died on August 1 at the age of 87. Tocco, also an outstanding trainer and cutman, worked in the boxing business for nearly 79 years, since his days as an eight-year-old carrying water buckets to the ring. He was in Las Vegas when he died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack ... Trainer **Alex Sherer** also died on August 1, at the age of 43. Sherer was most recently employed as the trainer for undefeated heavyweight **Ed Mahone** ... Former world heavyweight champion **Riddick Bowe** was charged with second-degree assault after his wife, **Judy**, alleged that Bowe punched her in the face and back at their Fort Washington, Maryland, home. Police, however, found no evidence of physical injury ... **Sir David Hopkin**, president of the British Boxing Board of Control and senior vice president of the WBC, died August 21 at the age of 75. Hopkin was knighted in 1987 by **Queen Elizabeth II** for his exceptional service to the British judicial system.

THE PUNCHLINES

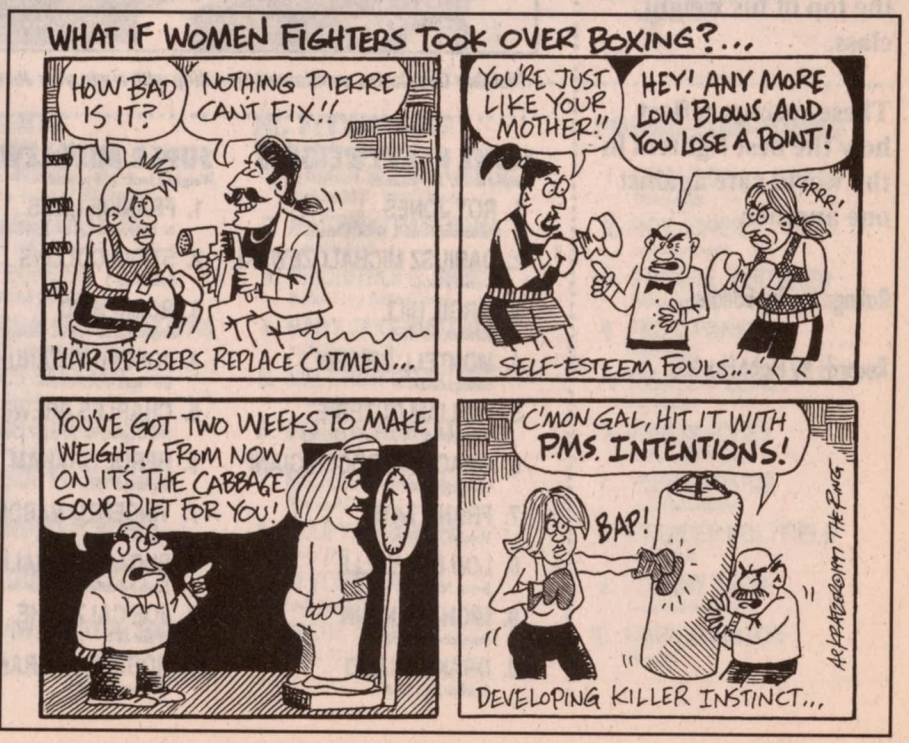
"I'm sort of the cockroach of boxing. I adapt to all terrains."

—Former WBA super middleweight champion Steve Little, explaining why a fighter who used to weigh 168 pounds was currently campaigning as a cruiserweight.

"You can tell him to change his name to *Queen* Naseem. I'm the king; I have the crown on my head."

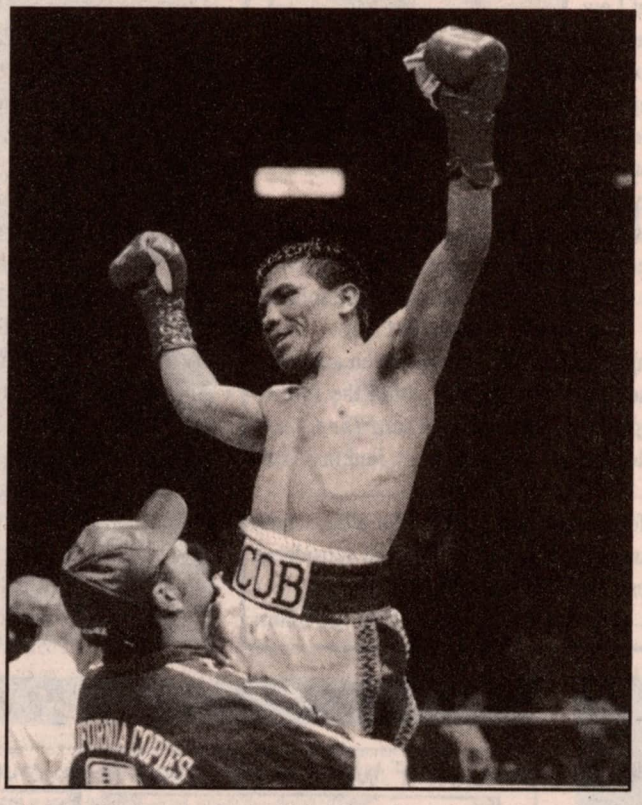
—A saucy Junior Jones, attempting to embarrass "Prince" Naseem Hamed into fighting him

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended September 18, 1997



Melchor Cob Castro maintained his rating with a win over Jesus Chong

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *34-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *31-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *38-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-2*
5. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
6. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *27-1*
7. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-5*
8. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-4*
9. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *17-0*
10. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *31-1-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *29-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **URIAH GRANT** Miami, FL *26-12 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *22-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-4-2*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *36-1*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *36-3-1*
7. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *39-2*
8. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *20-0*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *16-1*
10. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *56-4-2*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *35-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *34-0*
3. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-2*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *27-1*
5. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *38-4-1*
7. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *39-4*
8. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *25-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *52-3*
10. **DRAKE THADZI** Brockton, MA *29-8-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *31-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *36-3*
3. **ROBIN REID** England *23-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *25-1-2*
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *28-5 (IBF Champ)*
6. **HEROL GRAHAM** England *47-5*
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *31-6*
8. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*
9. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *22-0*
10. **ROBERTO DURAN** Panama *100-13*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *32-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *22-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *24-1-1*
5. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *26-0-1*
6. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *29-1*
7. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *29-1-1*
8. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *28-0*
9. **BRIAN BARBOSA** Providence, RI *23-3*
10. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *24-1-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *47-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *58-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *32-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-4*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *68-2*
10. **DAVIDE CIARLANTE**
    Italy *23-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *26-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *40-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *39-3-1*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *40-2*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *25-4*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *25-2-1*
9. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *22-0*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *37-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *30-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-1-1*
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-5-1*
7. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *49-3*
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *40-4*
9. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA *36-6-1*
10. **REGGIE GREEN**
    Clinton, MD *26-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *32-1*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *26-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *42-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *29-0*
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *22-2-1*
6. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *36-0-1*
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *58-5-1*
8. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *44-3*
9. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *22-1*
10. **TOM JOHNSON**
    Detroit, MI *46-3-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *27-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *51-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *48-1-2*
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *21-1*
6. **ANGEL VASQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *15-0*
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *20-4*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *46-3-1*
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
10. **EVER BELENO**
    Colombia *37-3*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *43-2*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *33-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
6. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-8-3*
7. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
8. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *31-3-1*
9. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *27-0-1*
10. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *22-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *17-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *15-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *37-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *37-1*
5. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-1*
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *23-0*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *11-1*
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *59-6-1*
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *24-1*
10. **PASTOR MAURIN**
    Argentina *35-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *40-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-2*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
8. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
9. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand *22-3*
10. **ANDY AGOSTO**
    Puerto Rico *14-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *33-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *23-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *27-1 (Interim WBC Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *45-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *15-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *33-3*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *5-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *34-2*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
3. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *46-10-2*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *50-5-4*
6. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *44-4*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *21-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **JESUS CHONG**
    Mexico *31-8*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
8. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
9. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

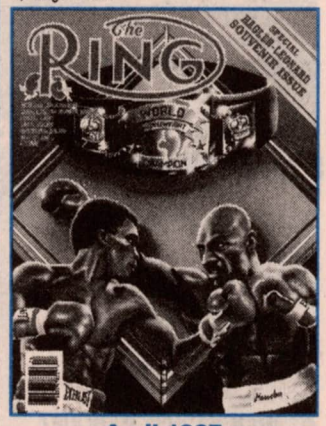
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray Is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carl Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 61. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Razor Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING'S 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Aug. 1997: Keep Your Word, Oscar ... Give "Sweet Pea" A Rematch! Plus: Shane Mosley, Tony Zale, Holyfield-Tyson II preview, Montell Griffin, Red Cochrane.

Sept. 1997: (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

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NEW FACES

DON DIEGO POEDER

Cruiserweight

By Robert Cassidy

PRO RECORD

1994		
April 18	Ken Wood, Rotterdam, Netherlands	KO 2
June 2	Chuck Miller, Long Island, NY	KO 2
Aug. 26	Alonzo Hollis, Atlantic City	W 4
Sept. 24	Dimitri Ostraiainov, Rotterdam	KO 2
1995		
Jan. 23	Lajos Eros, Rotterdam	W 6
March 9	Francisco Borja, Groningen, Netherlands	KO 2
June 17	Lavell Stanley, New Orleans	KO 1
July 21	Wesley Martin, New Orleans	W 6
Sept. 16	Jules Pierre, Arnhem, Netherlands	KO 1
Oct. 6	Tony Booth, Waregem, Belgium	KO 2
Dec. 23	Karoly Kovacs, Amsterdam, Netherlands	KO 1
1996		
Feb. 28	Domingo Monroe, Ledyard, CT	KO 1
April 1	Franck Guilmot, Den Bosch, Netherlands	KO 7
June 3	Rund Kanika, Eindhoven, Netherlands	KO 7
Aug. 9	Gary Durr, Bay St. Louis, MS	KO 1
Dec. 17	John Andrade, Rotterdam	KO 1
1997		
Feb. 4	Lenzie Morgan, Rotterdam	W 12
April 12	John Kiser, Las Vegas	KO 5
June 15	Terry Ray, Ledyard	KO 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
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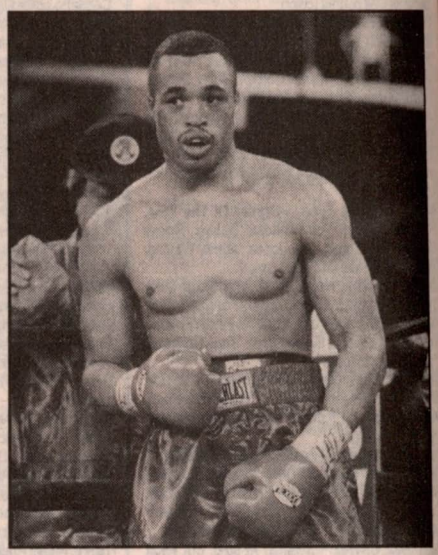
Sometimes opportunity knocks. Then there are other times when it barges right through the front door. In the case of cruiserweight Don Diego Poeder and manager Stan Hoffman, it was the former who barged through the front door and asked for the opportunity to become a world champion.

In early-1994, Hoffman was in Holland helping Regilio Tuur become the most famous and wealthiest boxer in that country's history. It was during one of Tuur's training sessions that Poeder, then 21, entered the private gym, approached Hoffman, and said, "I'd like to be champion of the world. Can you help me?"

Such a plea is commonplace in boxing and Hoffman has heard it delivered many times and in many ways during his tenure as a manager, promoter, and adviser. But something told Hoffman this young fighter seemed more serious than most. The manager instantly took an interest in Poeder, who invited Hoffman to his home to watch tapes of his amateur fights. As an amateur, the

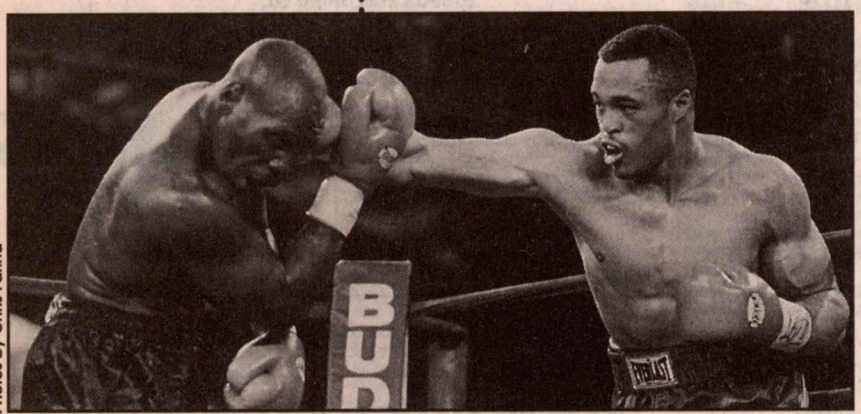


Dutch cruiserweight built an impressive reputation. He began boxing at age 16 and compiled a record of 25-8 (21). He twice won national amateur titles, and as a member of Holland's national team, earned a silver medal at the 1993 European Championships in Turkey.

The coaches of the national team tried to convince Poeder to remain an amateur until 1996, so he could represent Holland at the Olympics and then enter the pro game with the same push the 1988 Games had afforded Tuur. But with the competition still 2½ years away, Poeder decided he had grown tired of amateur boxing. Hoffman decided to sign Poeder, then quickly found out that his potential champion wasn't just tired of the amateurs. He also got tired in amateur fights.

"The word on Don was that he could go great for two rounds, but then he'd run out of gas in the third round," said Hoffman. "Basically, he couldn't sustain anything. He

(Continued on page 54)



Photos by Chris Farina

Poeder pounds John Kiser into a fifth-round defeat

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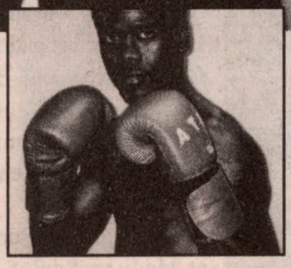

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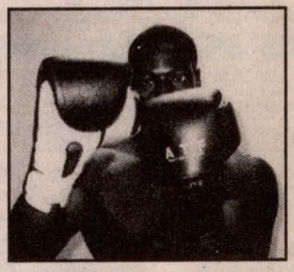

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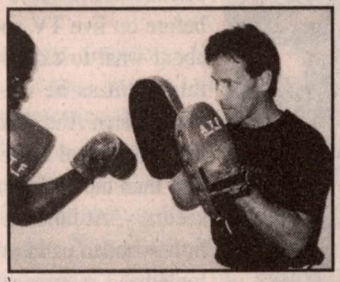

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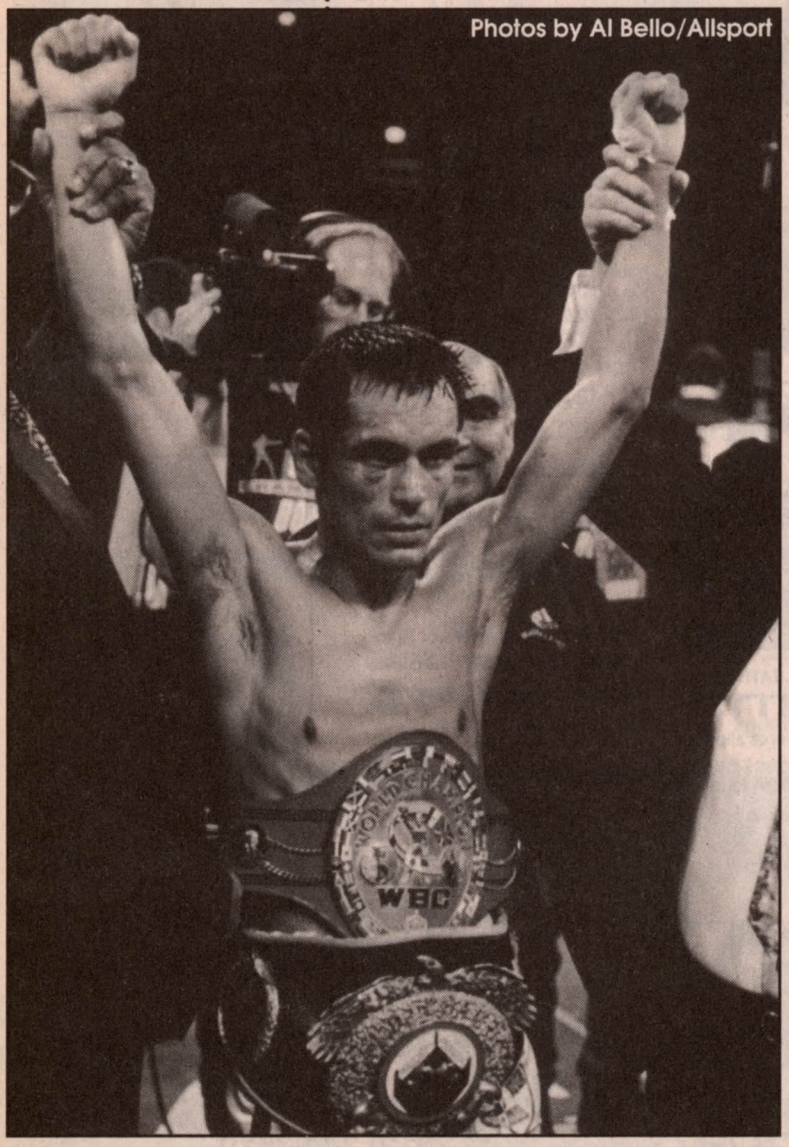
RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE STEALTH BOMBER

The best fighter in the world weighs no more than one of Butterbean's legs and collects wins in a division you can't closely monitor without a Thai newspaper subscription or a satellite dish the size of a ferris wheel. At press time, he was scheduled to fight a strawweight unification bout that, well, let's just say, wasn't going to knock Brett Favre off the lead page of the sports section. Ricardo Lopez can do practically anything inside the ropes—except make the world care about what he's doing.



Striking a pose to which he has become accustomed, Lopez has his arms raised in victory after his August 23 fight with Alex Sanchez. The world's best strawweight has compiled a record of 46-0 (35), yet remains largely unnoticed in the boxing community.

But those of us who admire what WBC champ Lopez is—not what he could be under different circumstances—shouldn't sit around crying in our Coronas and lamenting the bad break the poor guy got from the gene pool. Because if the Mexican thumping bean weighed 147 or 160 or 175 pounds, and not a tyke-like 104, he might not have the same power, style, and effectiveness. Maybe not even the same occupation.

My first in-person look at Lopez came in August at Madison Square Garden. Having watched him before on live TV and on tape, there was no mystery about what to expect. Still, he was as impressive on this night as he was on so many others, stopping once-beaten Alex Sanchez in the fifth round. The finish was typical Lopez. No sooner was his foe badly hurt than the champion bombarded him with pinpoint accuracy. At times, a Lopez fist acts like one of those little wooden paddles we played with as kids, and his foe's head resembles the little ball that was attached to that paddle with a rubber band.

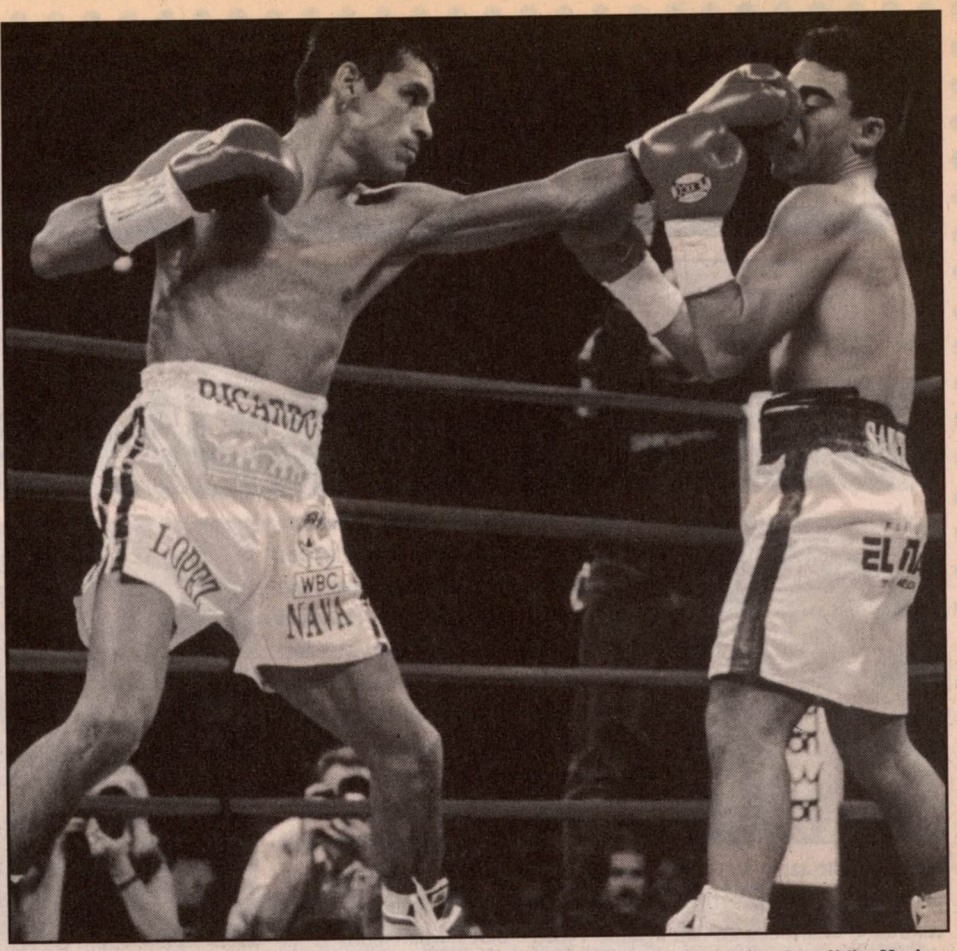
What convinces me that Lopez is the finest warrior in the game? His dominance and array of skills. His six-year reign and 20 successful title defenses (16 by kayo) can't be dismissed, regardless of how much better than his opponents he always is on paper. (Six more defenses will surpass Joe Louis' all-time mark.) Unlike Roy Jones, Lopez never got himself disqualified, he isn't worried first and foremost about safety, and he doesn't question his commitment to the game. He is more polished than Oscar De La Hoya, more versatile than Pernell Whitaker, and far better defensively than Evander Holyfield.

It is exhilarating to watch Lopez, and frustrating, too. At 46-0 with 35 knockouts, he needs a superfight, but none is likely to materialize anytime soon.

There is speculation that WBC President Jose

Sulaiman doesn't want Lopez to venture from the safety of the strawweights, just in case something bad happens and Sulaiman's already dwindling supply of Mexican heroes takes another hit. The October 25 unification clash with undefeated WBA titlist Rosendo Alvarez was expected to test Lopez, but no matter what happened, it certainly wasn't going to bring him one baby step closer to star status anywhere outside of his homeland.

The one bout that might have had a noticeable impact on Lopez' career would have been a shootout with junior flyweight Michael Carbajal. The window of opportunity for that matchup was thrust open in '96, when both Lopez and Carbajal resided in Don King's stable, but, unfortunately, the dollars required to make the match never surfaced. Now, after suffering two bad losses in '97, Carbajal is tarnished, and a victory over him would do little to enhance Lopez' marquee value.



Lopez unloads a straight left to the face en route to his fifth round TKO victory over Sanchez. If the Mexican fighter wants to gain notoriety, he'll have to resort to either moving up several weight classes or getting himself disqualified in a memorable manner, ala Mike Tyson.

As much as we're reluctant to admit it, and as much as we diehards always keep trying to draw up roadmaps to guide our favorite diminutive dynamos to superstar status, the plain truth is that they just ain't climbing to that next level. There is a line of demarcation that determines who gets media coverage and who ends up as a line of agate type. In my early days on the fight beat, in the mid-'80s, nothing below featherweight got a sniff from the mainstream press. In the late-'90s, the rules have become stricter. Now, very little below whichever weight class De La Hoya happens to be in warrants a story.

So Lopez is as destined to remain a secret to most people as his opponents are destined to end up befuddled and broken down. He can put on weight, something he has thus far been reluctant to do, but a jump of four pounds to junior flyweight, eight pounds to flyweight, or even a whopping 14 pounds to bantamweight won't make a difference. (Consider: I recently asked USA Network analyst and former lightweight champion Sean O'Grady for his take on IBF flyweight king Mark Johnson, an *American*. O'Grady didn't even know who Johnson was.) Go ask former IBF bantam champ Orlando Canizales what 16 successful defenses did for *his* Q Rating.

In other sports, the little guy gets much more respect. At 5'3", basketball's Muggsy Bogues is a cult figure who trades one-liners with David Letterman. An entire stadium at tennis' U.S. Open roots for 5'9", 150-pound Michael Chang against giants with bazooka serves and wingspans that cover most of the net. In the minds of many, however, little guys wearing gloves are just a novel way to kill time while waiting for the "real" fighters to take the stage.

If Lopez wants desperately to get noticed, he may have only two options. He can start chewing on his challengers, saving his best bites for any pay-per-view undercards on which he appears. (The big drawback: the first DQ will ruin his unbeaten record.) Or he can shave his legs and don a wig, ala Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie*, and fight Christy Martin. Judging by the Garden crowd's enthusiasm for the women's brawl that immediately preceded Lopez-Sanchez, it's a can't-miss career move.

We who appreciate what Lopez brings to the game should at least be able to take comfort in the knowledge that he's a lock for the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Then why aren't we comfortable? Because another pint-sized Mexican great, Miguel Canto, made a flyweight-record 14 successful title defenses and *still* isn't immortalized on the Hall wall. "Does Don Sutton belong in Cooperstown?" is a great argument. "Does Canto belong in Canastota?" shouldn't even be open to debate.

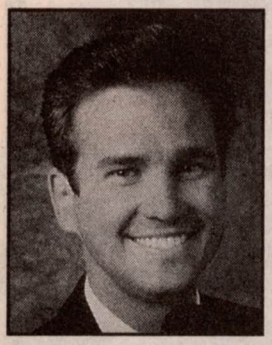
If Lopez stays at strawweight and keeps beating back the underdogs, so be it. In a few years, I'll be one of the first people to point out that there's something a whole lot worse for the game than having its best fighter weigh 104 pounds.

That's having a talent like Ricardo Lopez happily ensconced in retirement. ■

THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

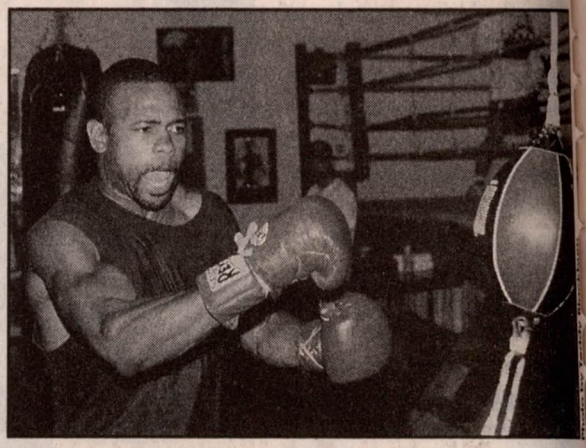
Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: WOULD ROY JONES HAVE ANY CHANCE AT ALL OF BEATING EVANDER HOLYFIELD?



Sean O'Grady, USA analyst and former lightweight champion: "Power strikes fear in opponents in this sport, and Jones has the speed to do it. As Holyfield has grown into a heavyweight, he's lost the speed. If I was Jones, I wouldn't put on a lot of weight for Holyfield. Providing he doesn't carry a lot of weight at heavyweight, Jones can do it.

"Boxing is Roy Jones and Roy Jones is boxing. We'd see Roy Jones fight Holyfield the same way as he has fought others in the past, by using perpetual motion. Holyfield is a consummate professional. The concentration and focus he had against Tyson—that's what sports is all about. Against Jones, I think he would reach another plateau.

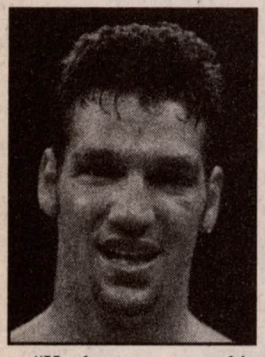


Roy Jones certainly has enough speed to do well in the light heavyweight division, but can the three-division champion really compete with the big boys? USA Network's Sean O'Grady thinks so.

"I still think Roy Jones would beat him. You fight differently in every fight you're in. You'd have to rob Jones of his speed if you're Holyfield. The upper echelon of fighters knows they have to walk right, talk right, and carry themselves as champions. That's the difference between world-class fighters and clubfighters. Jones and Holyfield are at another level.

"I see 12 rounds, with mutual respect being shown from both fighters. Roy Jones would outbox and outscore Holyfield. Holyfield is an outstanding fighter. He's done everything I didn't think he could do in the past. Everybody doubts him, and he still comes through. I don't think Roy would get in a position where he would get hit by Holyfield. He knows he can't set and let Holyfield tag him, or the fight's over."

Q: WHEN MIKE TYSON RETURNS, WILL HE STILL BE A CHAMPIONSHIP CALIBER HEAVYWEIGHT?



Lou Savarese, heavyweight contender: "I think we've seen the best of Tyson. He hasn't shown me his best since he's come back. If you cut Tyson's head off and watch him box, he's not the same fighter. His worst problem is he doesn't bend his knees. He doesn't use his jab anymore. When he gets inside he looks to hold.

"He had that great combination that he used to throw—right hand to the body and uppercut to the head. He doesn't throw it at all now. It's obvious he's not doing the things he used to. He doesn't throw combinations anymore. He one-punches all the time. He stands straight up when coming forward.

"Tyson used to be lightning-fast, but now you can see his punches coming. If he would have lost to Holyfield outright two times, I think people wouldn't be interested in his comeback. He's got the physical skills, he's just not executing like he used to. He used to have such an effective jab in setting up his power-punches, and he used to move his head coming in.

"He threw great combinations, especially a great left hook. He had a lot of fighters beat before they got in the ring with him. He had that mental edge in the past that he doesn't have anymore. I thought that Holyfield would beat him in the first fight because he was so confident. I don't think Tyson will ever be able to get back to where he used to be."

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Q: HOW VALUABLE A TOOL IS PUNCHSTAT IN ANALYZING A FIGHT?

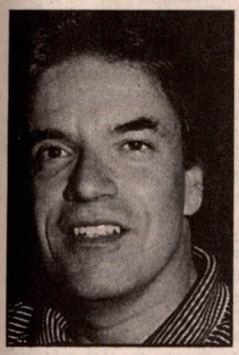
Danny Romero Sr., manager: "It's a little deceiving because the entire audience is watching it. It's a totally different fight than watching it live. They count powerpunches and the volume of punches. That makes it confusing. What do they mean by powerpunching?

"If you're a right-handed puncher, does that mean they just count right hands? When I'm watching a fight, I'm not looking at PunchStat. A judge is not able to look at it. If a guy threw three jabs and all of them landed, and the other guy hit him with a strong right hand and left hook, he should be able to win the round.

"When Danny [Romero Jr.] fought Johnny Tapia, there was one round where Danny threw and landed more punches and he lost the round. That showed me that PunchStat doesn't mean anything. I don't know how much merit it carries. When a judge judges a fight, he has to look at both fighters at all times to score the fight. Harold Lederman [HBO's unofficial official] even scores some of these rounds differently than PunchStat.

"Your average fan thinks what is shown on TV is gospel. The PunchStat guys have one guy looking at one fighter and another guy looking at the other fighter. The judges can't do that. I'm really confused by it. If you had six guys scoring the punches, it would be different. You only have two guys counting all these punches."

Q: COMING OFF THE DANNY ROMERO FIGHT, IS JOHNNY TAPIA A LEGITIMATE POUND-FOR-POUND ENTRANT?



Ron Borges, boxing writer for *The Boston Globe*: "A lot of people picked Romero in the top 10 before Johnny beat him. I always thought Tapia was more heart than skills. He dominated a guy most people thought was a pound-for-pounder. Tapia's a tricky boxer. He showed against Romero he could box and impose his will.

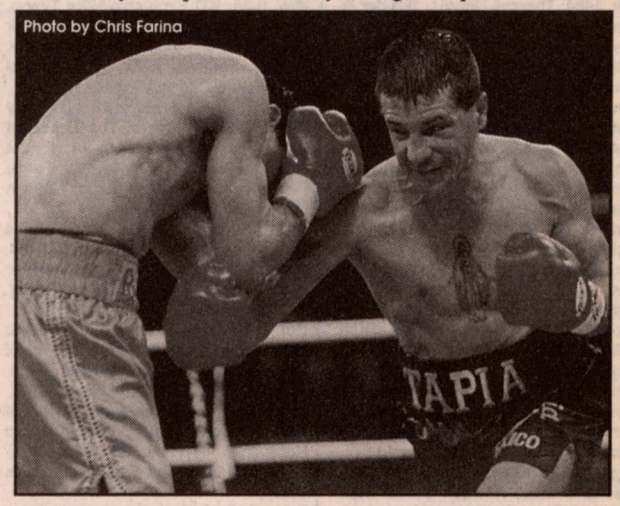
"I think Tapia has fought his way into the top 10. In the Romero fight, he showed he was a very good fighter. He didn't get lured into a holy war. He was very disciplined, mentally stronger. Tapia did what he said he would do against Romero. I thought Romero would get to him and do some damage. Tapia ended up dominating their fight.

"Romero wasn't a factor in the fight. Tapia punches well and moves well. If you fight Tapia, you're going to fight three-minute rounds for every round. If Tapia can control his emotions like he did against Romero, he's very dangerous against anybody. Tapia landed the heavier punches against Romero, outboxed him, and controlled the fight.

"Where Tapia goes from here will be interesting. Other than Romero, who can he make money with? I would like to see him fight Mark Johnson. It would be a good fight, but I think Johnson would be too fast for him. In the pound-for-pound ratings, I would put him ahead of Terry Norris, but behind Mark Johnson.

"Tapia has proven himself in the biggest fight of his career. Romero was good. Tapia was better. He deserves to be listed with the top guys now." ■

Photo by Chris Farina



Johnny Tapia controlled his fight with Danny Romero, and cruised to a points win. Romero wasn't in* The Ring*'s pound-for-pound list before the fight, so does Tapia deserve inclusion on the list now?

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney—The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Also: Tony Ayala Jr., Baltazar brothers, Pedroza, Larry Hazzard, Joe Frazier.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitez: The King Of Style Conquers Duran. Color Pinup: Saoul Mamby. Interview: Dwight Braxton. Also: Art Frias, Saad Muhammad, Achievement '81.

Oct. 1982: Larry Holmes Turns Back The Cooney Challenge. Color Pinup: Davey Moore. Interview: Tex Cobb. Also: Alexi Arguello, Bobby Czyz, Ray Mancini, Lupe Pintor, most powerful men in boxing.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Interview: Hilmer Kenty. Also: Don Curry, Pryor-Arguello I, Pedroza-Taylor, Roger Mayweather.

May 1983: Hector Camacho: "Ray Mancini Will Be An Easy Fight." Color Pinup: Michael Dokes. Also: Spinks-Qawi, John Tate, Year In Review.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

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Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

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July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

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Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

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Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

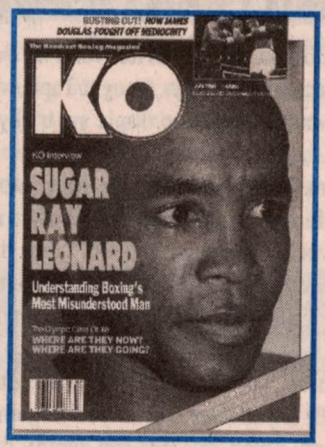
Jan. 1990: Sugar Ray Leonard Braces For Duran: 10 Crucial Questions. Color Pinup: Gilberto Roman. Interview: Razor Ruddock. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Harold Knight, Daniel Zaragoza, Kennedy McKinney, Marlon Starling.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

March 1990: Evander Holyfield Passes A Surprise Test ... But Can He Give Tyson A Fight? Color Pinup: Antonio Esparragoza. Interview: Seth Abraham. Also: Cooney-Foreman, colorful characters.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.



July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

April 1991: The Ali Chronicles: The Greatest Show On Earth. Color Pinup: George Foreman. Interview: Tommy Morrison. Also: Tyson-Stewart, Ruddock, best-kept secrets.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

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Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Aug. 1993: Experts Pick The Winner Of Chavez-Whitaker. Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Foreman-Morrison Preview, Evander Holyfield, Sergei Artemiev, Joe Frazier, best of KO interviews, Michael Carbajal.

Nov. 1993: Superstars At The Crossroads: Pernell Whitaker, Evander Holyfield, Terry Norris. Color Pinup: John-John Molina. Interview: Al Certo. Also: Zack Padilla, Whitaker-Chavez, Norris-Waters, Holyfield-Stewart, Morrison-Foreman.

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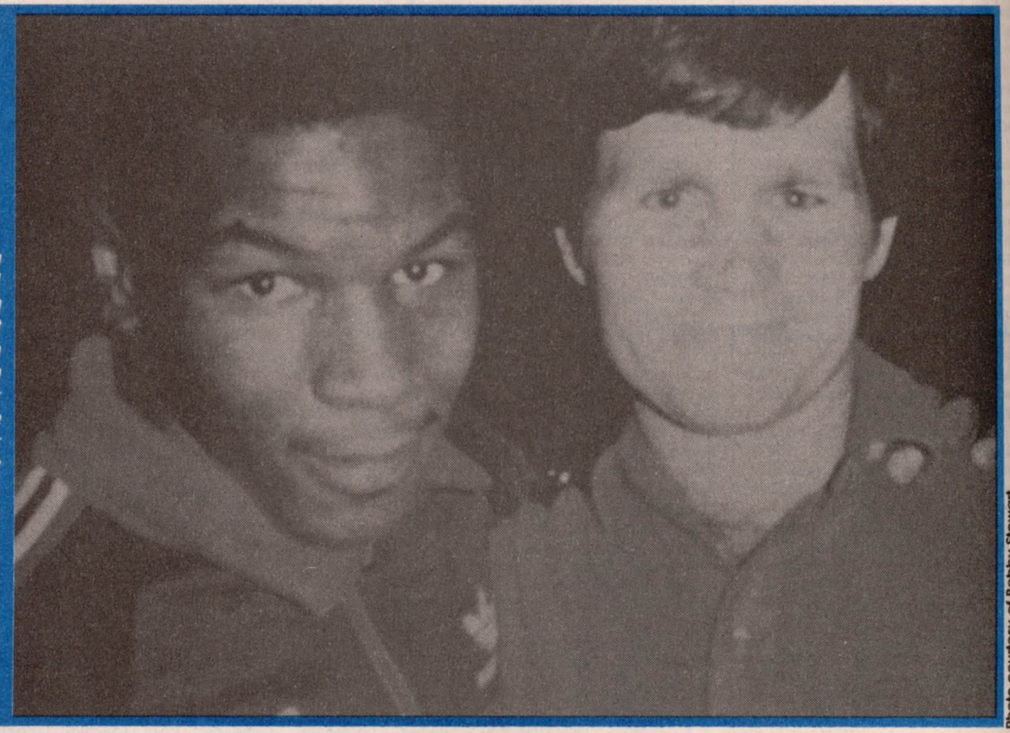
THE MICHAEL TYSON I USED TO KNOW

Recollections Of His Earliest Trainer



Tyson was still an amateur when he posed for this photograph with Bobby Stewart, his first trainer. Stewart was a counselor at the Tryon School, the home for troubled boys where Tyson was placed after running afoul of the law in New York City.

Photo courtesy of Bobby Stewart

By Bobby Stewart
(as told to Dennis Gaffney)

Most of you have heard all too much about Mike Tyson.
But few of you know me.

My name's Bobby Stewart. I'm the guy who first put gloves on the fists of Mike Tyson. And I'm writing this to tell you why. Because I saw the Tyson fight Evander Holyfield. I saw what he did. But I didn't see the ex-heavyweight champion of the world. Or a future one. Or a convicted rapist. Or a celebrity. Or a loser, an animal, a maniac, or all the other things the man's been called.

I saw a kid I used to know.

When I met Michael, he was a 13-year-old kid at a crossroads, like so many adolescent kids. A kid who could've ended up stuffed in a prison for life or even dead on the street. He'd been sent to the Tryon School, for troubled kids near Johnstown, New York. I worked there as a counselor in Elmwood Cottage, where the toughest kids were boarded.

One day another counselor called to tell us they were sending a troublemaker over to the house. The counselor warned me to watch out. Well, the kid was put in isolation, locked in a room. It wasn't long before I received word that the boy wanted to talk to me. He had heard I was a fighter. That night, I banged on his door, and opened it.

"What do you want to see me for?" I asked him, trying to scare him into respecting me.

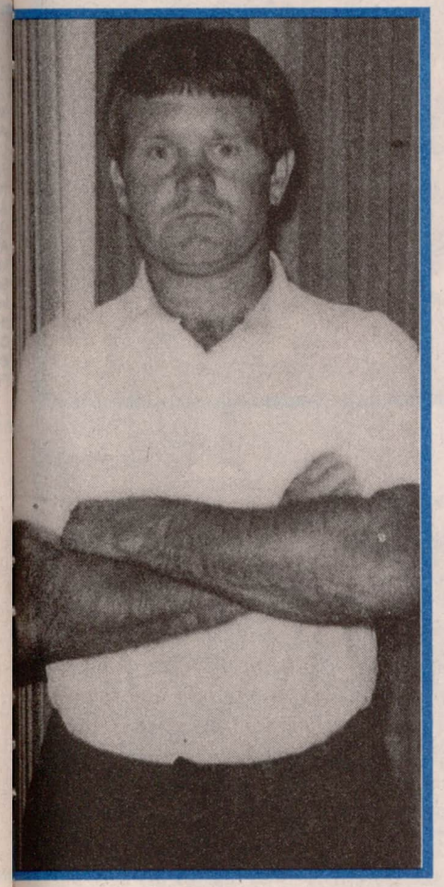
"I want to be a fighter," he said.

That was the first thing Michael ever said to me.

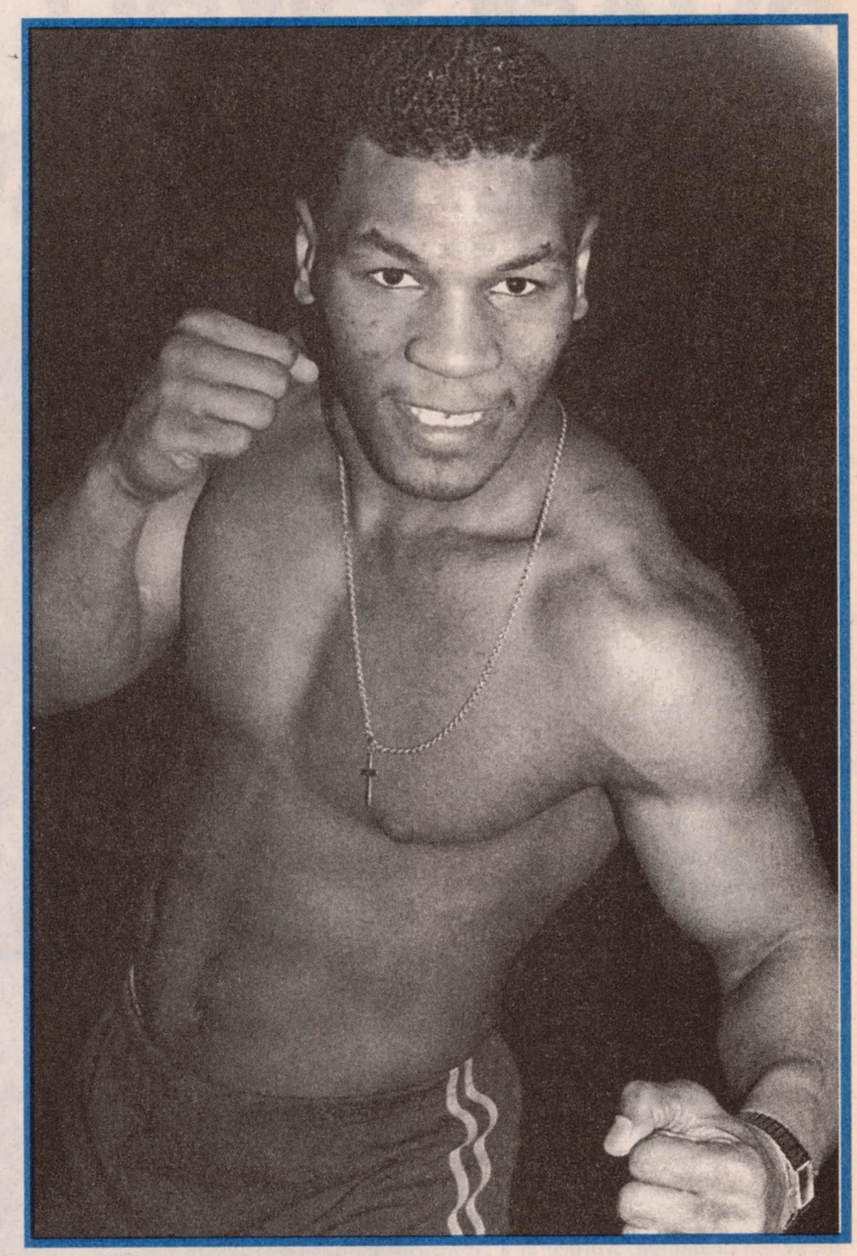
I won the National Golden Gloves in the light heavyweight championship in '74. By the time we met, though, I didn't box competitively anymore. But I still worked out and sparred with up-and-coming boxers.

Michael didn't look like a boxer back then. Yeah, he was big for his age, 5'6" and 195 pounds. (He's now 5'11½" and 220 pounds.) But he was still pudgy with baby fat. And he didn't have that scowl. In fact, he seemed to speak in questions, as if he was always asking for things he didn't think he deserved. But whether he became a professional boxer or a world champion didn't matter to me. You see, back then I believed that boxing is a good training for life. It was based on my own experience. I started boxing when I was 17. It kept me out of trouble and added discipline to my life that has stayed with me until this day.

I believed it could do the same for Michael. I believed boxing could give him some direction. Help keep him straight. Michael had named boxing as his carrot, so I held it out. I told him to stay out of trouble and we'd see about the boxing



Stewart once hoped that boxing would be Tyson's salvation, but now realizes that the fighter needs something beyond the discipline of the ring to put his life in order.



A teenage Tyson. Stewart started sparring with the future heavyweight champion when Tyson was 13. The trainer, a former National Golden Gloves champion, says Tyson nailed him with the hardest jab he'd ever absorbed. At the time, boxing lent stability to Tyson's life.

lessons. I told him that if he wanted to box, he'd have to behave. Over the next few weeks, I checked in with his teachers and counselors. Well, the kid changed. He stayed out of fights. Did what he was told. Stayed within the rules. Even started to pay attention in class. A raging lion had turned into a lamb.

He kept his end of the bargain; I kept mine. We started boxing in the evenings. I taught him the tricks of the trade: how to

(Continued on page 55)

Better Keep That Day Job

BOXERS WHO PUNCH THE TIME CLOCK

By Robert Mladinich

The mere notion of a professional boxer having a day job almost seems like an anachronism these days, although it was not that long ago that it was far from unusual. The fact that so many fighters have come from the most humble of beginnings, and still manage to succeed in perhaps the toughest vocation of all is usually testament to a fierce work ethic. For a multitude of reasons, however, that work ethic is not often carried over outside of the ring.

Most main event or world-class fighters are given weekly stipends by promoters or managers, are sponsored in some other fashion, or live off their sporadic earnings. While mere necessity dictates that many preliminary fighters be gainfully employed outside of boxing, one is hard-pressed to find many established active fighters who are.

Over the years, there has been no shortage of champions and contenders who maintained full-time jobs throughout their careers. Former welterweight champion Curtis Cokes, who now trains heavyweight Ike Ibeabuchi, worked at a Dallas meat packing plant. Emile Griffith, the three-time welterweight and two-time middleweight champion, worked at a New York hat making company as a milliner.

Nobody can forget one of Philadelphia's most revered boxers of all-time, former middleweight contender Bennie Briscoe, the quintessential blue-collar working-class hero from the quintessential blue-collar working-class city. Briscoe worked as a city sanitation man by day, and moonlighted as middleweight force in

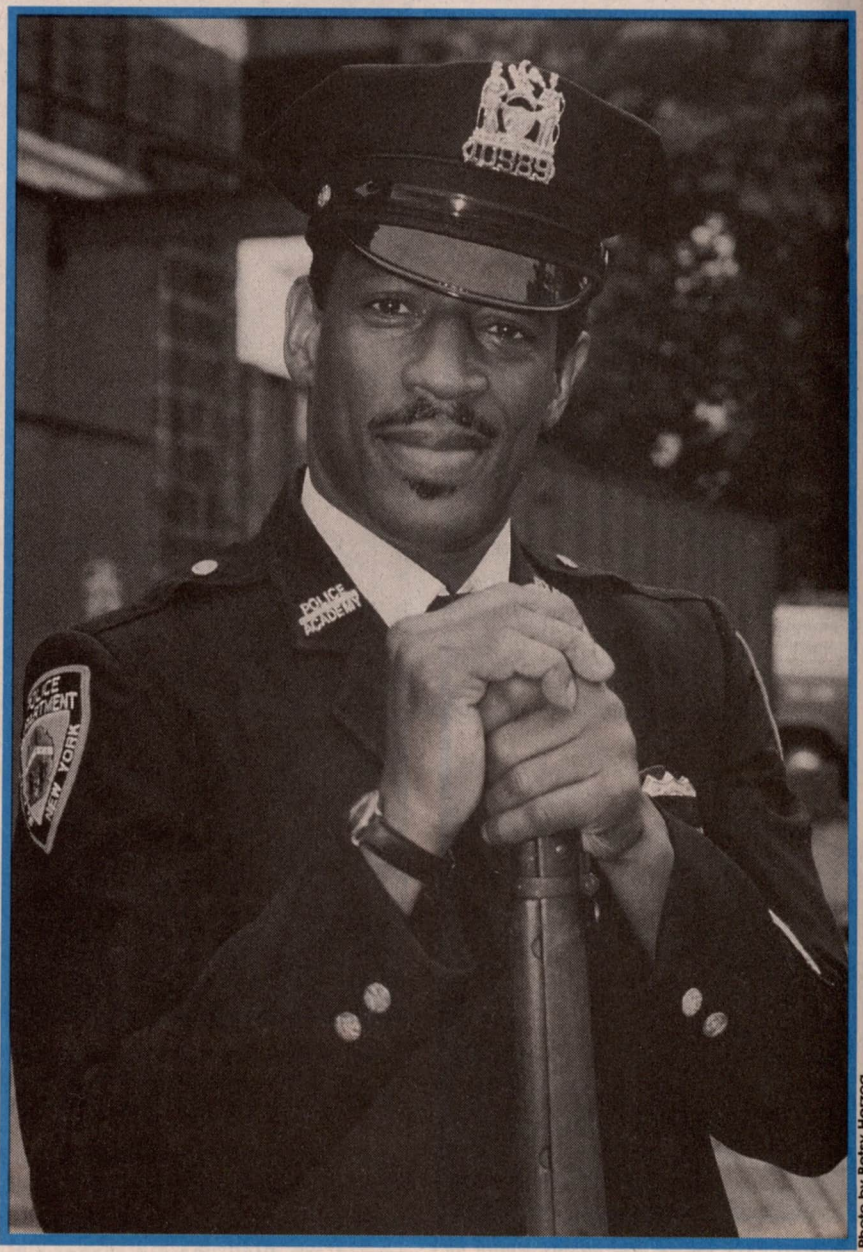


Photo by Betsy Herzog

Light heavyweight Richie Frazier has been a New York City policeman for 13 years, but has no difficulty juggling both careers. He does his roadwork before morning roll call and goes to the gym when his shift is over. He's been boxing professionally for five years.

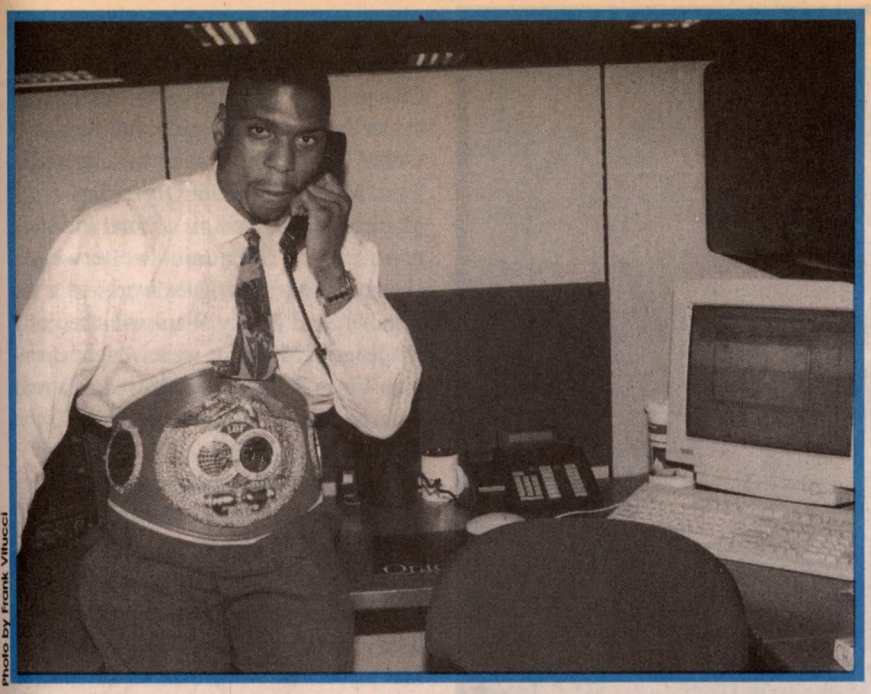


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Charles "The Hatchet" Brewer worked so hard to win the IBF super middleweight title, he takes his belt to his day-job as a computer operator for a Pennsylvania mortgage company.

Watervliet, New York, tavern called "Ziggy's Corner" throughout the second phase of his career. The bar was bought with money earned from the Frazier fight.

Perhaps the greatest representative of a blue-collar, working-class boxing hero was heavyweight Chuck Wepner, who challenged Muhammad Ali for the title in 1975 and became the muse for filmdom's *Rocky* character. Wepner hailed from Bayonne, New Jersey, and when he challenged Ali, he was working the night shift as a security guard at the local General Electric plant. During the day he was employed as a liquor salesman. For the Ali fight, he trained for six weeks in the Catskill Mountains, the only time in his 51-fight career that he spent time in a training camp. Wepner gave a respectable account of himself against Ali, and parlayed his success in that fight to a second career as the "real-life Rocky." Wepner still maintains that things could have gone different-

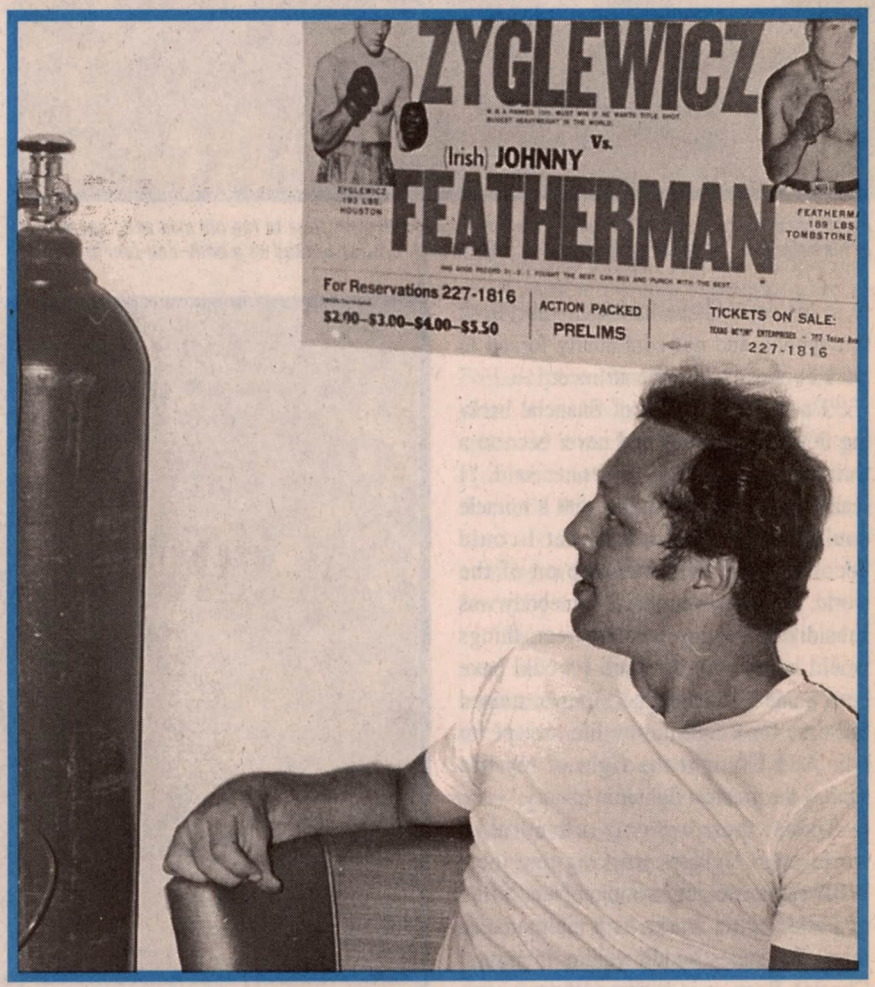
the '60s and early-'70s.

Dave Zyglewicz challenged Joe Frazier for the heavyweight championship in 1969, and was unceremoniously stopped in just 96 seconds. A native of Albany, New York, he was a bona fide sports hero in his adopted hometown of Houston, Texas, where the fight took place.

Throughout the first phase of his career, Zyglewicz was employed as an industrial smokestack cleaner, and nearly lost his life in a 1971 accident that left a co-worker dead. The chutes had been accidentally opened while they were working inside, and the co-worker was nearly incinerated. Zyglewicz managed to carry him out of the chute, but was himself chemically burned on the inside and outside of his body. For nine months he lay inside a plastic bubble at a local hospital, clinging to life. Not only did Zyglewicz miraculously survive, he embarked on several comebacks as well. He credits his resolve with the discipline associated with boxing.

"If taken as seriously as I took it, boxing can give you a great amount of strength, not just physically but mentally, too," he said. "I just kept telling myself I was going to be all right. I worked too hard my whole life to let an accident stand in my way."

Zyglewicz fought sporadically until 1982, and was the proprietor of a



Former heavyweight contender Dave Zyglewicz looks at one of the oxygen bottles that helped keep him alive after an industrial accident. Even getting blasted out in less than two minutes by Joe Frazier wasn't as bad as what happened to Ziggy on his day job.

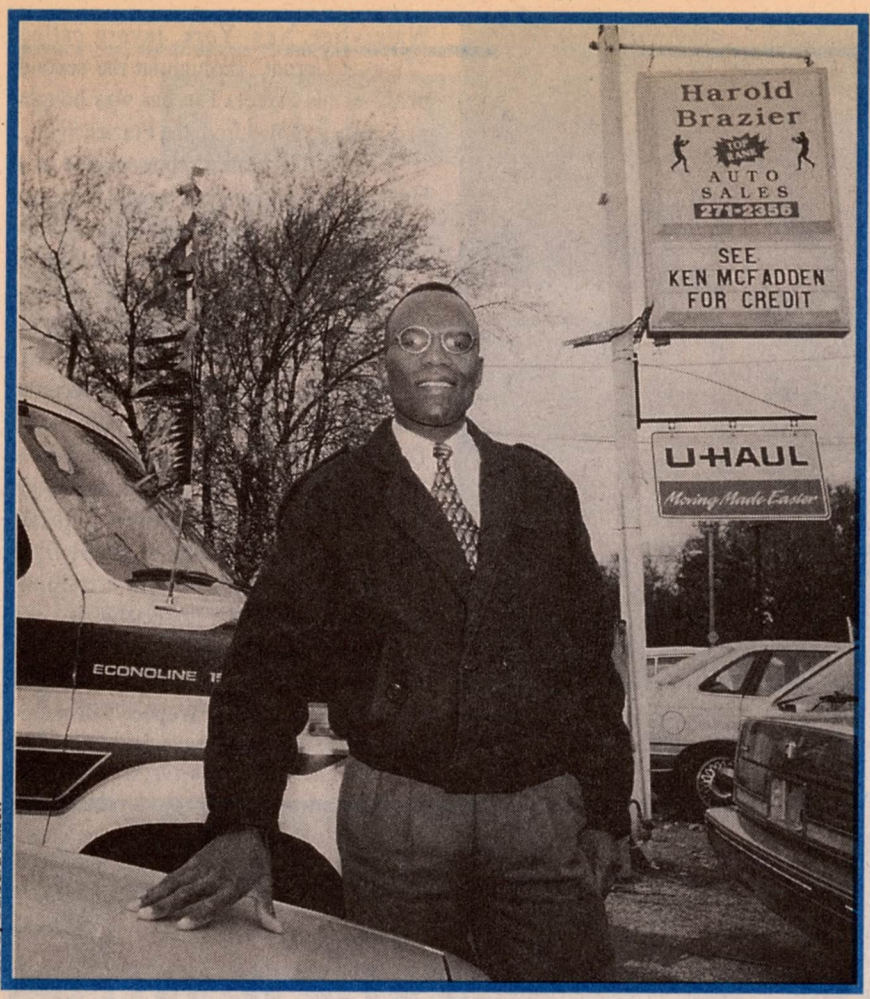


Photo by Barbara Allison

A veteran of more than 100 pro bouts, Harold Brazier still finds time to run his own used car agency in his hometown of South Bend, Indiana. Prior to that, Brazier worked as a body-and-fender man.

used car dealership, light heavyweight contender Richard Frazier is a New York City policeman, junior welterweight contender Jamal Corbin works full-time as a rookie Philadelphia transit cop, flyweight Eric Morel, a 1996 Olympian from Madison, Wisconsin, is a hotel cleaning man, former IBF junior welterweight champion Jake Rodriguez works as a tile installer, and Micky Ward, who recently challenged IBF junior welterweight champion Vince Phillips, is employed as a road laborer and as an operator of a 10-ton roller.

Brazier, 41, has been on a whirlwind course since turning professional in 1982 at the relatively advanced age of 26. Not only has he engaged in 119 fights since then, he has never missed a day of work unless he was on the road boxing. For many years he worked as an automobile salesman and auto body repairman, but always dreamed of owning his own business.

In 1985, that dream came to fruition when he opened Top Rank Auto Sales in South Bend, Indiana. The way Brazier, 103-15-1 (64), sees it, there are few things more rewarding in life than participating in an activity you love, owning your own business, and being happily married. He asserts that he has been successful in all ly in his career if he had been subsidized throughout, and not continually forced to work two jobs to make ends meet.

"I never had a dime of financial backing in my career, and had never been to a training camp before," Wepner said. "I realized in those mountains that a miracle could really happen, and that I could become heavyweight champion of the world. I also realized that if somebody was subsidizing me my whole career, things would have been different. I would have been a much better fighter. I never trained full-time for a fight in my life, except for Ali. And I fought the fight of my life against the greatest fighter in history."

Today, there are only a handful of world-class fighters working day jobs. WBA cruiserweight champion Nate Miller of Philadelphia works as a maintenance man, IBF super middleweight champion Charles Brewer is a computer program analyst, two-time junior welterweight title challenger Harold Brazier owns his own

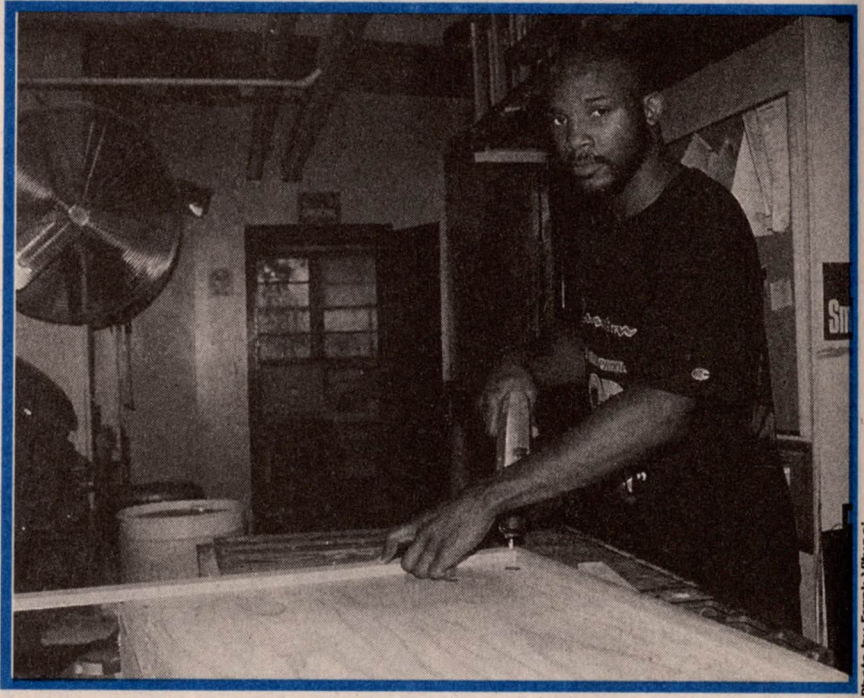


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Watch your fingers, Nate. WBA cruiserweight champion Nate Miller still holds down a regular job as a maintenance man for the Philadelphia Housing Authority, where he's as handy wielding a power tool as he is throwing his lethal overhand right.

three because of an inherent discipline to put priorities first at all times.

"I have a very clear picture of when it's time to box, time to work, and time to be with my family," Brazier said. "Most boxers don't train for more than three to four hours a day anyway. What are they doing the rest of the day? Probably nothing. Most boxers don't use their down time for anything constructive. I believe that where there is a will, there is a way to do anything."

Brazier's day usually consists of a 6:30 a.m. run, followed by his arrival at the office by 8:30. After working until 6:00, he trains from 6:30 to 9:00, has a bite to eat, and calls it a day. Oddly, he doesn't find the day all that grueling.

"Being successful comes from within," he said. "If you feel good about what you are doing, you can do anything."

Miller, 34, has been employed by the

Chuck Wepner augmented his ring earnings by working as a liquor salesman. The only time "The Bayonne Bleeder" took time off from work to go away to training camp was when he fought Muhammad Ali in 1975.

You look maaahvelous! Welterweight champion Emile Griffith, originally a milliner by trade, fits challenger Gaspar Ortega for a bonnet during the prefight build-up for their 1961 title fight.

Philadelphia Housing Authority for 13 years, and is assigned to the Spring Garden apartment complex. He earns $27,000 per year, which seems a pittance since he won the world title and is now garnering significant six-figure paydays. He runs every morning at 6 a.m. and is always at work by 7 a.m. By 4:00 he is at the gym.

"Nate is the most steady guy I ever met," said his publicist, Bob Sadler. More importantly, Sadler says, Miller, 30-4 (26), presents a much more realistic view of what the boxing business is all about, and often teaches valuable lessons to young fighters who think big money abounds at every level of competition.

"These young dudes look to Nate as a role model," Sadler said. "Nate is a guy doing all the right things, never looking for a shortcut. He worked his way up to making six-figures, it didn't come overnight. Unless you are an Olympian or an out-

(Continued on page 56)

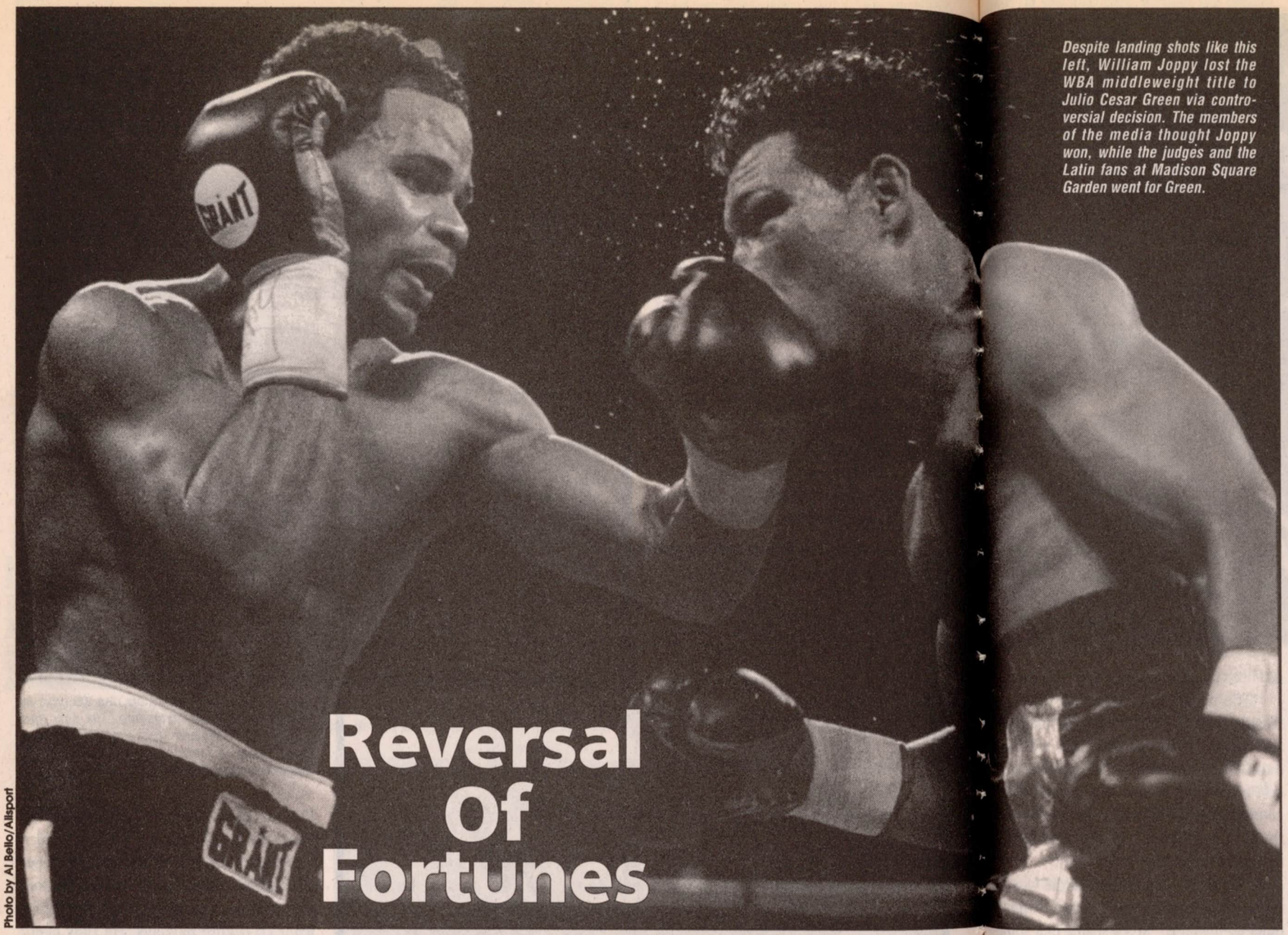


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Despite landing shots like this left, William Joppy lost the WBA middleweight title to Julio Cesar Green via controversial decision. The members of the media thought Joppy won, while the judges and the Latin fans at Madison Square Garden went for Green.

Reversal Of Fortunes

THE CONTROVERSIAL CORONATION OF JULIO CESAR GREEN

By Robert Cassidy

This is a tale of two fighters. It was the best of times for one, it was the worst of times for the other. The champion's career represented the spring of hope, while the challenger's was the winter of despair. When they met on a hot summer evening at Madison Square Garden, the course of their careers was drastically altered. It was a twist of fate so unlikely that Charles Dickens himself would have been hard-pressed to spin such a tale.

An injury to another fighter brought William Joppy and Julio Cesar Green into the same ring at the Garden on August 23. An injury to Joppy would ultimately change their fortunes outside of the ring.

From the moment promoter Don King announced his intentions to schedule "The Quest for the Best" at the Garden, he planned to use Green. Joppy would enter the story much later. The theme of King's card had a distinctly Latin flavor. The main bouts featured Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad and Mexico's Ricardo Lopez. There would be four more Puerto Ricans and a Colombian also in action. Green, a native of the Dominican Republic living in Brooklyn, had the responsibility of luring New York's large Dominican community into the arena.

Green was scheduled to fight fellow New Yorker Lonnie Bradley. It was a match made for New York City, but it fell apart when Bradley suffered a torn retina during training. That's when Joppy's phone rang. Green had already sold 500 tickets, and the word refund is one all promoters try to avoid whenever possible.

Full of confidence and ability, Joppy accepted the fight on 11 days notice. He entered the ring the reigning WBA middleweight champion, absolutely convinced he was invincible. He had every reason to feel that way. He'd made two successful title defenses, and was looking forward to unifying the middleweight division in the coming year. He was an unbeaten champion who had not yet turned 27.

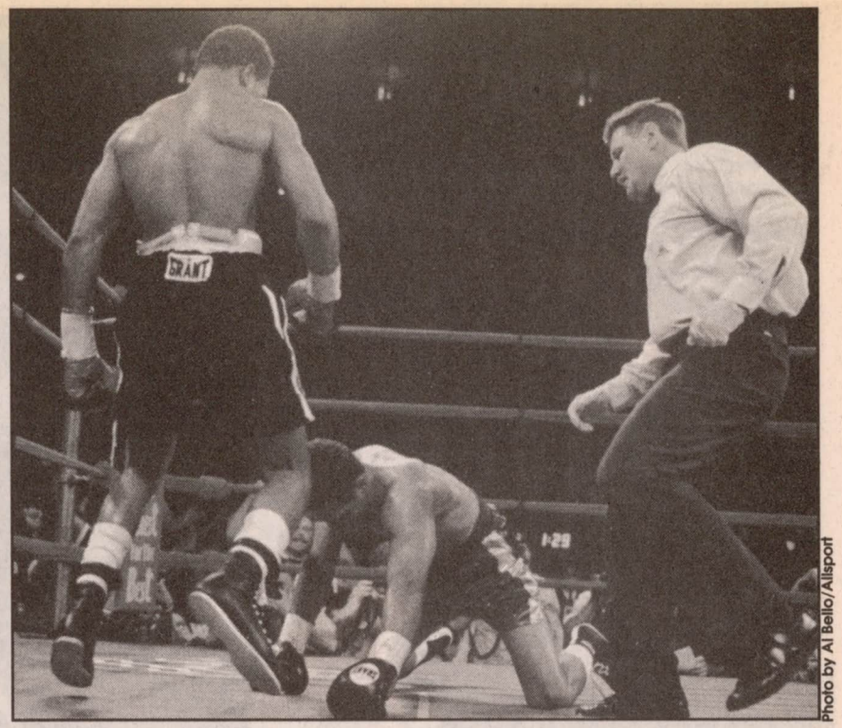


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

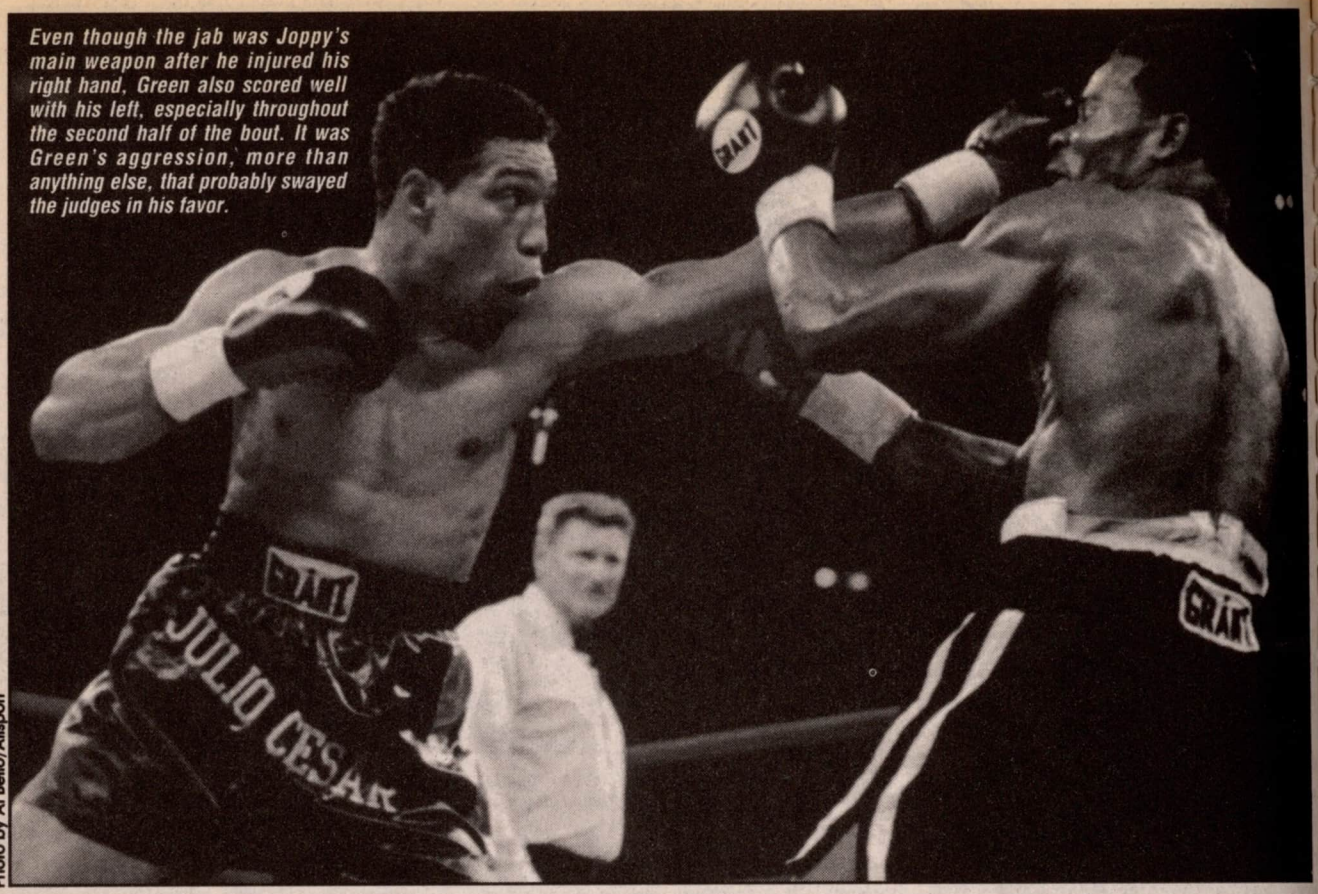
After visiting the canvas in the second round, Joppy returned the favor by twice flooring Green in the third. Even so, two of the three judges only gave the defending champion a 10-8 margin in the third.

Green's future had also once looked bright. He was an indomitable junior middleweight for much of his career, but the rigors of boxing and the fast-paced life of New York City exacted a toll on his body and psyche. He entered the Garden ring a 30-year-old veteran attempting to salvage a career that had fallen short of its potential.

"Everybody told us we were making a mistake fighting Joppy," said Green's manager, Tony Tineo. "Everybody told us he was the best middleweight in the world."

Joppy looked the part in the first round. His movements were smooth, his punches were crisp, and he presented an element of danger by landing a sharp overhand right that immediately got Green's attention. Even after Green dropped him in round two with a left hook, Joppy remained poised. With his pride damaged more than anything else, the champion exacted his revenge in the third by twice hammering Green to the canvas.

Shortly thereafter, the storyline changed. The younger fighter suffered an injury to his right hand at some point dur-



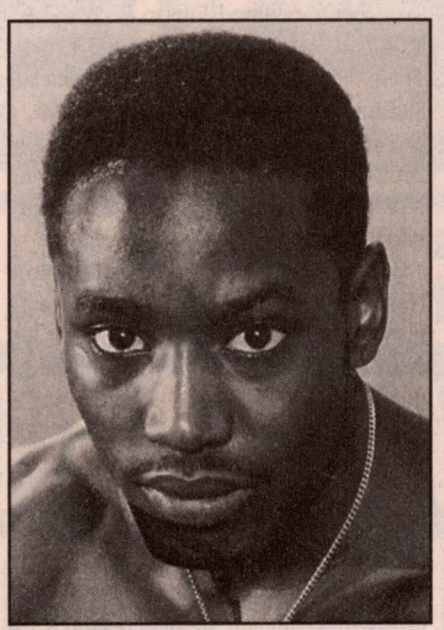
Even though the jab was Joppy's main weapon after he injured his right hand, Green also scored well with his left, especially throughout the second half of the bout. It was Green's aggression, more than anything else, that probably swayed the judges in his favor.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

ing the hectic slugger that marked the early rounds. His invincibility had been shed. Unable to throw what had been his most effective punch, Joppy began to fend off his challenger with a busy left jab. Sensing the change of pace, Green pressed the attack as Puerto Rican and Mexican fans adopted him as one of their own. The noisy Garden crowd of 14,162 seemed to come together to root against Joppy, one of only three non-Hispanic fighters in the evening's five featured bouts.

Here is where the twist turns tragic. Joppy still appeared to have won the fight. All of Green's pressure was met by the defending champion's jab, effectively offsetting the challenger's forward movement. Green, 159, may not have been hurt, but neither was Joppy, 160, Washington D.C. The consensus among ringside reporters was that Joppy, despite the injury to his hand, had earned the decision. Even Bradley, watching from ringside, said, "Joppy eked out a close decision." The judges disagreed and another boxing controversy was born.

THE RING had Joppy a 116-110 winner, giving only the second, ninth, and 11th rounds to Green. The judges, however, were unanimous in their votes for Green. New York's Steve Weisfeld had it 113-112, Venezuela's Rafael Carabano 116-113, and Puerto Rico's Roberto Ramirez 114-112. Judges Carabano and Ramirez gave Green the final four rounds, while Weisfeld awarded Green three of those last four rounds.



Lonnie Bradley was Green's original opponent, but an eye injury relegated him to the role of a ringside spectator. He thought Joppy did just enough to retain the title.

"The public was there and they saw what happened," said Joppy's co-manager, J.D. Brown. "He won the fight with one hand. We gave him a boxing lesson. I don't know where the judges get off not counting the jab. This guy beat Green with the jab all night long. It's the most important punch in boxing."

"I thought he won, I thought he won by four points," said Ollie Dunlap, Joppy's other co-manager. "It's a shame that something like this happens in boxing. This is why people have a sour taste in their mouth when it comes to our sport."

Another scoring note of interest was the fact that only Weisfeld rewarded Joppy with a 10-7 round for twice dropping Green in the third. Carabano and Ramirez scored the round 10-8 for Joppy.

"I was not pleased that we had two Latino judges, a judge from New York, and a referee from New York while we were fighting a Latino who lives in New York," added Dunlap.

Still another source of controversy was the point deducted from Joppy in the 11th round. Although it did not affect the outcome of the fight (Joppy would have had a

draw on just one card without the deduction), it was further ammunition for Team Joppy's argument that they were victimized. Referee Wayne Kelly penalized Joppy one point for hitting on the break. The incident occurred after Joppy spun Green and wound up behind him. As Kelly approached to separate the fighters, Joppy, still behind Green, reached around with a right hand and smacked Green's face.

"The point deduction was crazy," said Brown. "What does the referee tell you? Protect yourself at all times. He warned Green about kidney punches about six times and never took a point away."

"I didn't take the point away because Green turned his back and Joppy hit him, which is what a lot of people thought," countered Kelly. "I took the point off for hitting on the break, and it was blatant. I said, 'Break, step back.' He didn't step back, he whacked Green. That was a blatant foul, and I would do it again."

Regarding Brown's claim that Kelly did not deduct points from Green when he should have, the referee added, "Both fighters were guilty of some minor infractions, and I warned them. For instance, Joppy was backhanding Green, and a few of Green's punches were on the beltline. But they weren't flagrant fouls. I didn't think those infractions warranted taking a point."

Initial reports suggested that Joppy broke his right hand in either the fourth and fifth round. Brown said his fighter began complaining about it after the fourth. Joppy had the hand examined immediately after the fight, and did not appear at the postfight press conference. Instead, he issued the following statement: "I was robbed. My jab was good enough to win the fight easy. I think the right hand being hurt affected me a little, but I won the fight. Life goes on. We want a rematch, and we'll get one."

X-rays revealed that Joppy's hand was not broken. He'd suffered nerve damage over the middle knuckle on the right hand. Still, the injury seemed to affect Joppy more than, as he stated, "a little." Throughout the first four rounds he shook Green by dropping rights over the top of his adversary's guard. In a classic third round, Joppy floored Green with a straight right and had the Dominican in serious trouble. He managed to drop Green a second time with about 90 seconds left in the round. It didn't appear that Green would survive until the bell, and Kelly looked on the verge of stopping the contest.

"The referee should have stopped the fight in the third round," said Brown. "Green could have been severely hurt."

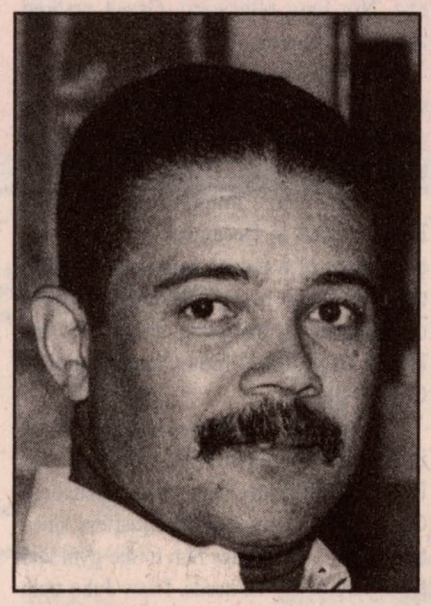
True, Green was close to being out on his feet, and Kelly admitted to THE RING that he was close to stopping the fight. But somehow, displaying amazing courage, Green found a way to fight back in the waning moments of the round. He launched a series of hard punches that stalled Joppy's attack and ignited the Latino crowd.

"From the third round on, Joppy stopped fighting," said Tineo. "He saw that he could not knock Green out and lost his heart. He started running. Green came to fight. Judges like to see strong fighters throw a lot of punches."

The second half of the fight was dull compared to the rousing action of the early rounds. Green, 22-2 (15), played the role of pursuer while Joppy, 24-1-1 (19), simply peppered him with jabs. Unimpeded by the threat of Joppy's right hand, Green pressed the fight. And while he seemed comfortable in the role of the aggressor, his attack was never particularly effective, and Joppy was never in trouble.

"I came to fight," said Green. "He came to run."

Suddenly, winter has turned to spring for Green. His career has been resurrected. The people of the Dominican Republic have momentarily forgotten about the dozens of baseball players the island has sent to the major leagues. The country is Green with pride.



Joppy's co-manager J.D. Brown figures his man gave Green a boxing lesson and that the judges must have ignored all the jabs Joppy landed the second half of the fight.

"Baseball players are more popular than boxers in the Dominican Republic," said Tineo. "But right now, everyone loves Julio Cesar Green. My country is obsessed."

Joppy is obsessed with a rematch. Barring any further complications with his right hand, he'll return to the gym as soon as possible to begin a quest to reclaim his title.

"If he was able to throw the right hand, we would have knocked Green out," said Brown. "We'd love to fight him again. We'll fight him again anyplace, anytime."

Tineo said he would give Joppy a rematch, but has other plans for the immediate future. He said a bout with Bradley would mean more to both Green and the fight fans of New York City. That is the fight the manager wants first, then he will accommodate Joppy's request for a rematch.

That Tineo is even talking about such fights is a pleasant surprise. A year ago, Green was a forgotten man. Perhaps not in the Dominican Republic, but certainly in the rest of the boxing world. He turned pro in 1990 and fought much of his early career under the promotional banner of Madison Square Garden. He climbed the ranks of the junior middleweight division with a relentless, two-fisted attack. In the summer of '92, while Joppy was still competing in the U.S. Olympic Trials, Green was a 9-1 pro. The same week that Joppy turned pro in February of 1993, Green fought his first main event and decisioned Eric Holland over 10 rounds at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater.

After the win over Holland, Green knocked out his next seven opponents. Among them were then-NABF champion Wayne Powell and contender Lonny Beasley. Two months after the Beasley fight, Green avenged his only pro loss by stopping Kevin Tillman in five rounds.

"Green gets people excited," said King's matchmaker Bobby Goodman, who promoted Green while he was head of Madison Square Garden Boxing. "He has that pressure style. He fights with a lot of

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Back on top after a discouraging spell, Green celebrates his upset victory over Joppy by riding in New York City's Dominican Pride Parade. He wants to fight Bradley before giving Joppy a rematch.

emotion. Green was always one of the most popular New York City fighters."

The 1994 campaign would be pivotal for both Green and Joppy. Green damaged the retina in his left eye against Tillman and was idle for the remaining six months. Joppy finished the year by running his pro record to 17-0 (14), establishing himself as a middleweight prospect worth watching.

Joppy was on the rise while Green's career had already began its descent. In June '95, Green met Carl Daniels for the vacant WBA junior middleweight title, but the signs leading to a defeat were manifesting themselves weeks before the contest. Green still had concerns about his surgically repaired eye and had just gone through a messy divorce. To make matters worse, he was also recovering from knee surgery, which limited his ability to train properly for the fight. All totaled, he trained just 17 days for Daniels and it showed. Green was lethargic in the ring and was thoroughly outboxed. He was penalized twice for headbutting, dropped in the 10th round, and left the ring with a badly swollen left eye. Not long afterward, Green walked away from boxing.

"After he lost to Carl Daniels, he took it very, very hard," said Tineo. "He was depressed. He told me he didn't want to go to the gym anymore."

When Green's longtime trainer, Joey Fariello, died in December of '95, it was even more of a reason to stay away from the gym. Green began spending more time on the street. At that point, Tineo, who has known Green for 14 years, took control of Green's life.

"Tony Tineo has done a tremendous job in Julio Cesar Green's resurrection," said Bruce Silverglade, who owns Gleason's Gym, Green's training headquarters since turning pro. "He brings him to the gym and takes care of all his needs. I saw Julio train hard every day up to the Joppy fight. Anytime he faltered, Tony stepped in and got him back on the right track."

In 1997, Green returned to action with Tineo remaining in his corner. But he had a new trainer, Lennox Blackmoore, and a new promoter in King. At first, Green toiled in obscurity with a pair of wins over clubfighters Bernice Barber and Earl Allen. Then came his second chance at a world title.

"I've always had a lot of confidence in Green," said Tineo. "He is like my son. I've been with him since the amateurs. He's represented our country all over the world. I knew Green could beat any middleweight out there."

Green will have an audience with the president of the Dominican Republic and a parade in his honor when he returns to his native land. Suddenly, for Green, it's the best of times all over again.

Joppy is interested only in moving on to the next chapter. ■

Robert Cassidy, a freelance writer based in New York, is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

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From De La Hoya To Holyfield

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MOTIVATE ROY JONES?

All dressed up, and for Roy Jones (right), the only place to go is the heavyweight division. His one-round demolition of Montell Griffin (above) rejuvenated the WBC light heavyweight champion's career and prompted fresh talk of him going after boxing's ultimate prize.

Photos by Marty Rosengarten

By Mark Jacobs

It was sometime in the wee hours of the morning that the conversation in the press room took a decidedly strange turn. Perhaps it was owing to the odd fact that a major championship fight had just been held in the middle of Connecticut. Or maybe it had to do with the bizarre choice of Thursday night to hold a pay-per-view show.

Whatever the reason, it was well after midnight, Friday morning, when Muhammad Ali's biographer, Tom Hauser, began seriously asking what chance Roy Jones would have against boxing's best heavyweights. While there were some writers who, most likely carried away with the moment, felt Jones could actually beat Mike Tyson, opinion was split over how the light heavyweight from Pensacola, Florida, would fair against Evander Holyfield.

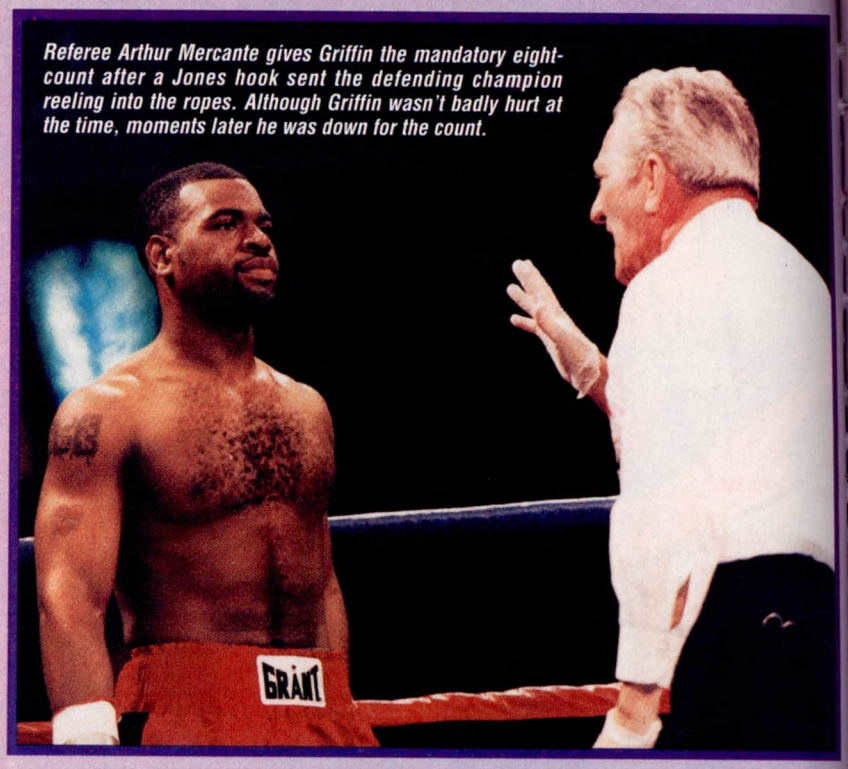
Earlier in the evening, TVKO commentator George Foreman had declared Jones ready to take on any of the sport's big men, and now here were the nation's leading experts on pugilism giving credence to the same notion: that Jones, essentially a blown-up middleweight, could possibly defeat the best heavyweights on the planet.

But who could blame them? After all, they had just witnessed a fighter's ascension from a run-of-the-mill hall of fame career to the level of godhood in the span of 2 minutes and 31 seconds. That's how long it took Jones to blow through the toughest challenge of his life against WBC light heavyweight champion Montell Griffin.

It was a weird scene all-around at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut, from the time prelim fighter John McClain suffered a broken ankle during his bout with Ezra Sellers, up through the national anthem sung by a local Native American woman in Algonquin Indian dialect, and concluding with Jones' abrupt devastation of the man who defeated him via disqualification in March.

It had been obvious all week this was a different Roy Jones than the one who had sleepwalked through the previous match with Griffin for seven rounds and then, after taking control in the eighth, inexplic-

Spectators sensed that they were about to witness an evening to remember when the national anthem was performed in an Indian dialect.



Referee Arthur Mercante gives Griffin the mandatory eight-count after a Jones hook sent the defending champion reeling into the ropes. Although Griffin wasn't badly hurt at the time, moments later he was down for the count.

ably hit the challenger twice when he was down. The DQ cost Jones the light heavyweight title, his perfect record, and, in the eyes of some, his title as best pound-for-pound fighter on the planet. Thus, Jones was focused to the point of seeming bitter and sullen in the week leading up to the rematch.

There was speculation that Jones was about to sever his relationship with longtime advisers Fred and Stanley Levin, that Griffin was getting to Jones psychologically, that the former champion might even retire after the fight. Jones was a moping headcase, liable to do anything, people said. Dear God, not another biting incident!

Instead, what we got was arguably the best fighter of his generation showing fans the perfection of the Sweet Science when performed by a virtuoso. From the time he entered the ring, Jones was intensity squared. Moments into the bout, he threw his first punch, a whistling left hook that stunned Griffin and told anybody who had

Even when Griffin attempted to fight back, Jones used his incredible defensive ability to avoid punches. Just moving his head a fraction of an inch caused this right hand to miss his chin and land on his shoulder. Griffin, on the other hand, avoided very few of Jones' punches.

ever seen a boxing match it was time to start packing, that this would be a short night's work.

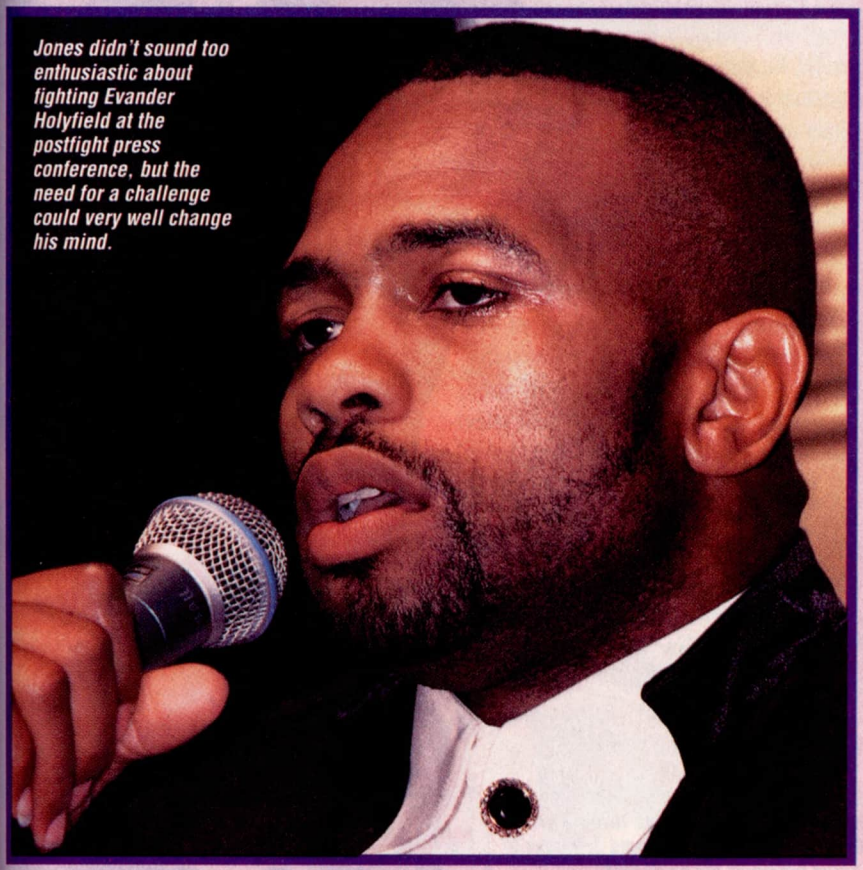
Seconds later, Jones caught Griffin with another left hook that sent him collapsing back into the ropes. Referee Arthur Mercante Sr. ruled it a knockdown. With a deadly seriousness that's been lacking in most of his recent fights, Jones immediately stalked the champion across the ring, beating a tattoo on Griffin with more hooks. Whether Jones used cute head and shoulder fakes to set up left hook leads or capped off combinations with the hook, his left seemed to zero in on Griffin as if he had a magnet in his glove and the champion's head were a refrigerator door.

Griffin retaliated with some weak jabs that didn't phase Jones, who finally landed a half-hook/half-uppercut that smashed the champion to the canvas. Griffin tried to push himself off the deck, but stumbled into the ropes and back to the mat, where he began crawling across the ring in a futile effort to regain his feet.

'Nuff said.

Jones could finally take a few minutes to draw some satisfaction from his handiwork, something he hasn't felt lately from boxing. Following a TV interview, Jones remained center stage for several minutes, jumping up onto the ropes in each corner of the ring to proclaim himself to the crowd as the baddest fighter in the world. And who could argue with him?

It seemed as if Jones couldn't miss with his left hook, which is surprising considering the fact that Griffin has a reputation as a highly skilled defensive boxer.



Jones didn't sound too enthusiastic about fighting Evander Holyfield at the postfight press conference, but the need for a challenge could very well change his mind.

What Jones had just proved is that, like a handful of ring immortals before him, he can turn it on and take out top-flight opponents seemingly at will. Ali could do it in his prime. Ray Robinson could do it. Roy Jones can do it … when he's motivated.

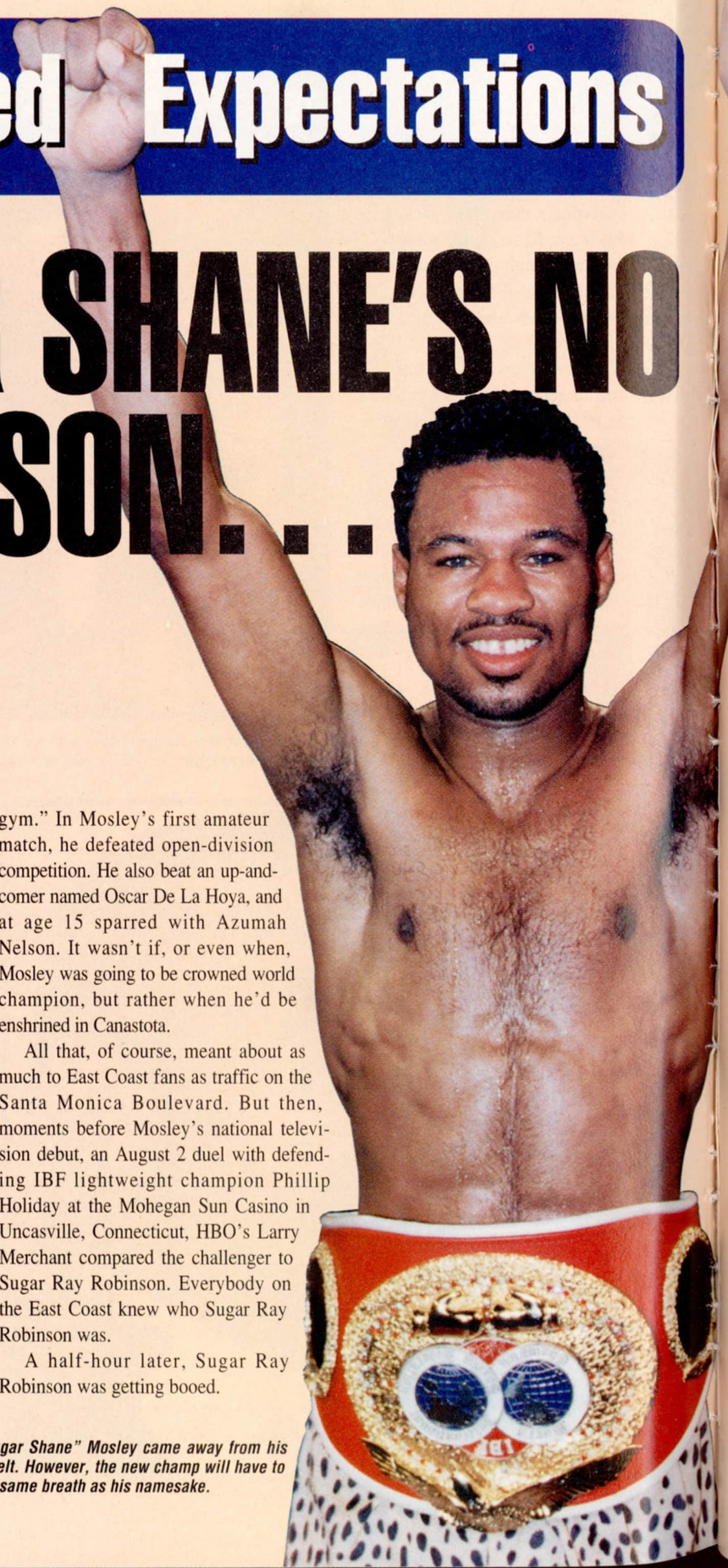
The joy that comes with the knowledge that you are the very best in your field seemed to wilt as quickly as Griffin, though. Shortly after the match, Jones spent all of 10 minutes addressing reporters and fans at the postfight press conference. He remained enigmatic on his future, saying he had not given it any consideration, focusing on nothing but the rematch with Griffin.

"The only thing I had on my mind was round eight [of the first fight]," Jones said. "I've been sitting around for five months in the eighth round, and tonight I just came

(Continued on page 59)

Unfulfilled Expectations

SUGAR SHANE'S NO ROBINSON... YET



By Steve Farhood

If you're an East Coast boxing fan, Los Angeles might as well be on the other side of the Pacific. The Olympic Auditorium? Must be where they store the gold medals. Five-round prelims? Sounds like the start of some convoluted tough-man tournament. Art Aragon? Isn't that the expressionism of the '90s, where the skaters tape the paintbrushes to the wheels of their rollerblades at Muscle Beach in Venice?

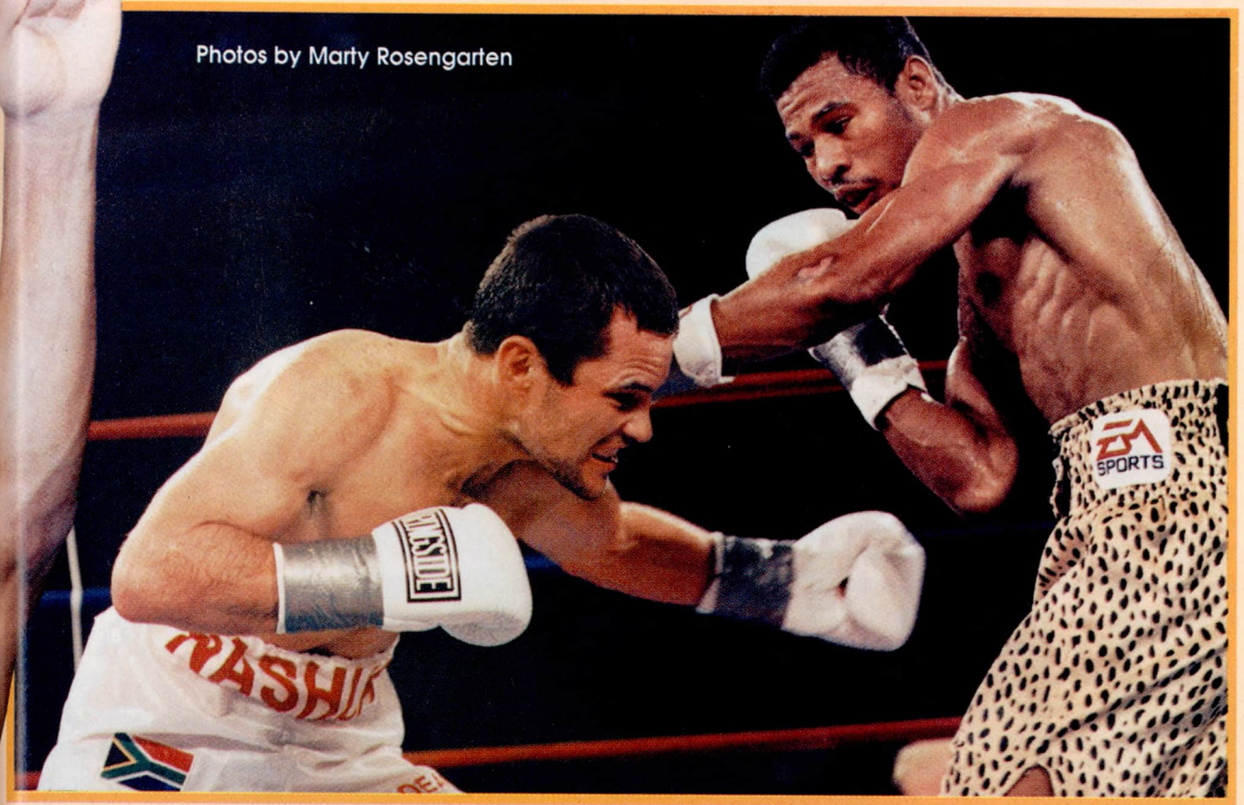
They've known about Shane Mosley in Southern California for quite some time. The word started to travel through the gyms of L.A. and filter into the Valley when he was delivering babypunches. "Sugar Shane," you see, went directly from pacifier to mouthpiece. He was nine years old when he started, and according to Jack Mosley, the lightweight's father and handler, "after a month or two he was beating up everybody in the gym." In Mosley's first amateur match, he defeated open-division competition. He also beat an up-and-comer named Oscar De La Hoya, and at age 15 sparred with Azumah Nelson. It wasn't if, or even when, Mosley was going to be crowned world champion, but rather when he'd be enshrined in Canastota.

All that, of course, meant about as much to East Coast fans as traffic on the Santa Monica Boulevard. But then, moments before Mosley's national television debut, an August 2 duel with defending IBF lightweight champion Phillip Holiday at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, HBO's Larry Merchant compared the challenger to Sugar Ray Robinson. Everybody on the East Coast knew who Sugar Ray Robinson was.

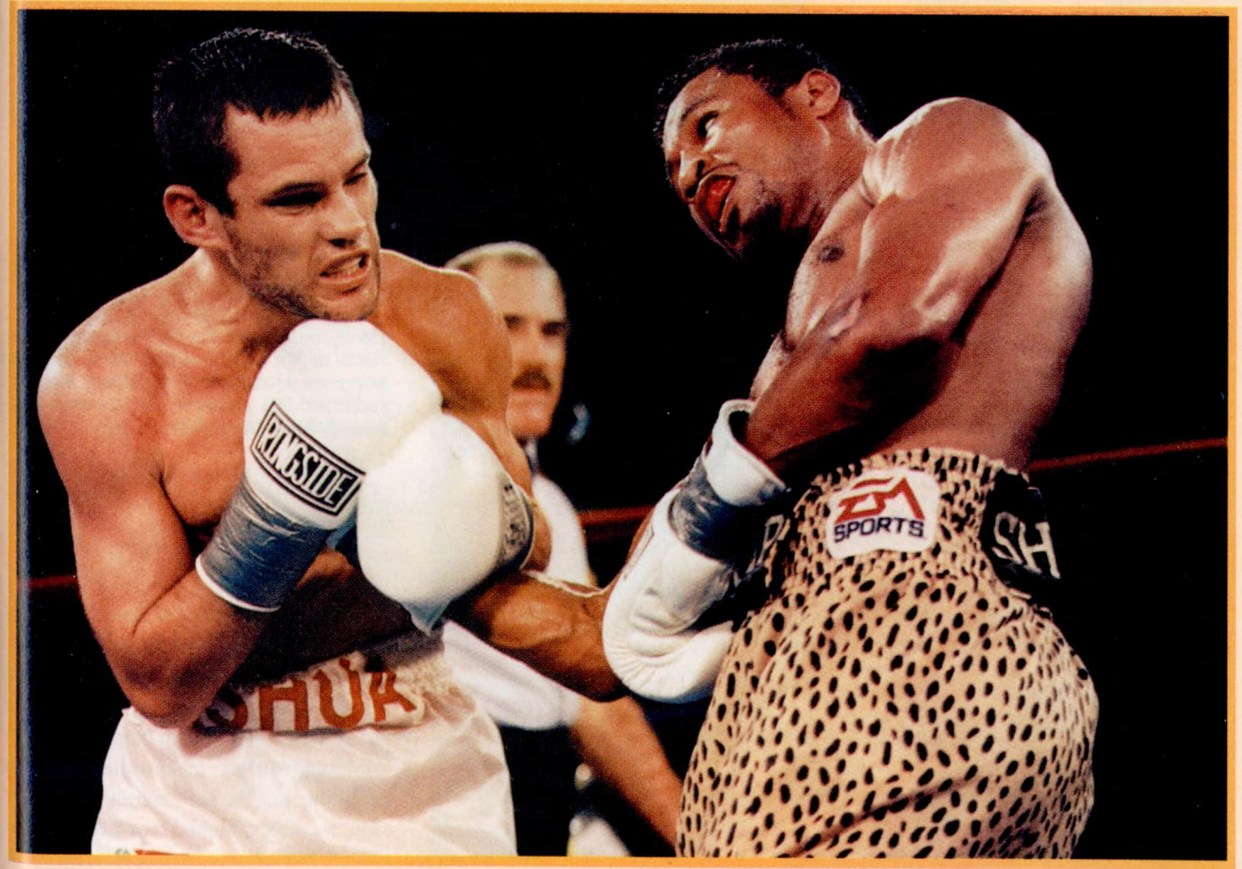
A half-hour later, Sugar Ray Robinson was getting booed.

Although he didn't live up to advance billing, "Sugar Shane" Mosley came away from his bout with Phillip Holiday with the IBF lightweight belt. However, the new champ will have to show a lot more before he can be mentioned in the same breath as his namesake.

Photos by Marty Rosengarten



Holiday, known for his bodypunching, had difficulty landing against his slick, speedy challenger. It was, in fact, Mosley who did most of the effective work to the midsection.

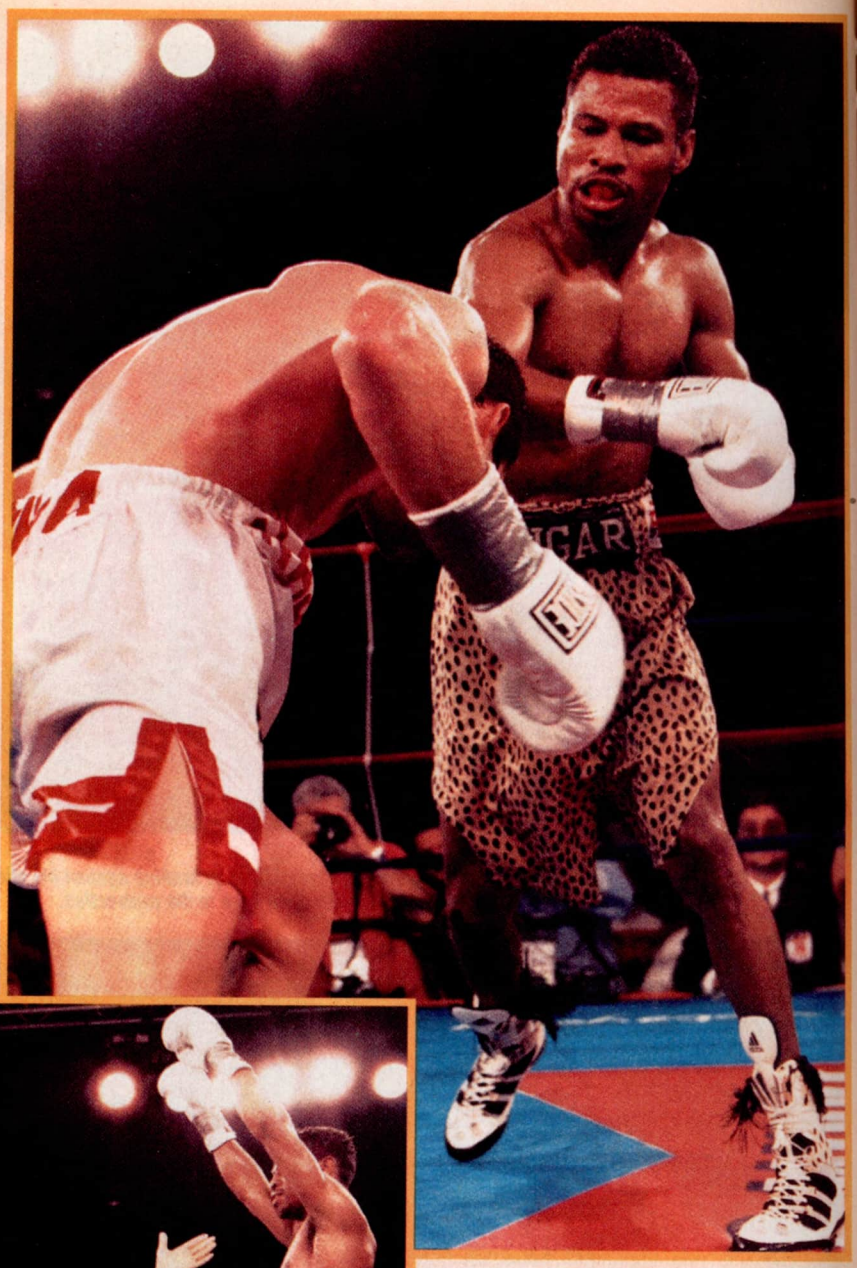


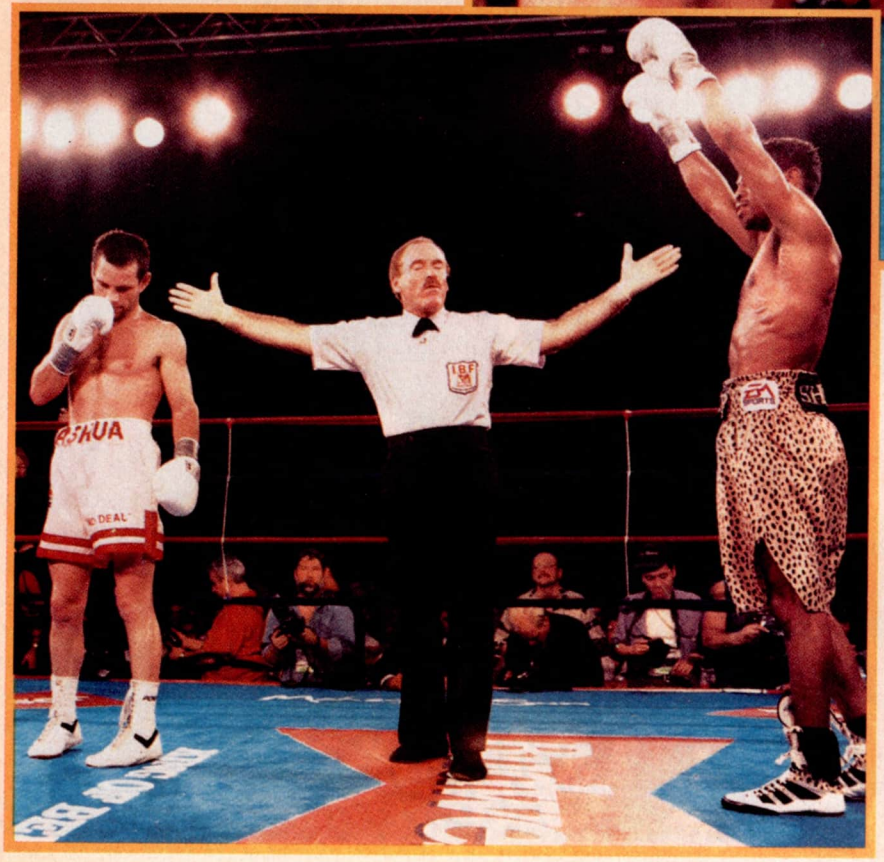
Mosley never hurt Holiday, but he did score fairly often with his right hand. How much a day-of-the-fight digestive problem hindered Mosley's performance is a matter of opinion, but neither man fought as well as expected.

Mosley's problems began at noon on the day of the fight. He had weighed in at 6 p.m. the day before, making 135 pounds with no problem. He had figured to enter the ring at 144 or 145. Firstly, it's natural to gain weight after having dried out for the scale. Secondly, as was his prefight custom, he ingested an over-the-counter powder, Creatine Monohydrate, at noon on fight day. "I shouldn't be giving my secrets away," he said, "but I take it because it helps you retain water weight. Weightlifters use it for explosiveness. I take it so I'll be heavier and stronger when I fight, and so I won't dehydrate.

"But I think maybe I used too much of it because as soon as I first took it, everything I drank, everything I ate [including five bananas and two quarts of pedialyte water], went right through me. It had the reverse of the intended effect. And my sparring partner, Daniel Lynem (who also fought on the card), took it, too, and lost a lot of bodily fluids.

"I ended up going into the ring at about 137½. By 10 p.m., everything was solid. But it was too late to eat again." (The opening bell was at midnight.)





The fighters' respective body language at the sound of the final bell told the story even before the scorecards were tallied. After six successful title defenses, Holiday went back home to South Africa without a belt.

Mosley's physical condition aside, 12 rounds vs. the champion wasn't going to be a Holiday. The tireless South African, who was making his seventh defense, had wowed American audiences by averaging 124 punches per round in outpointing Ivan Robinson. Mosley, meanwhile, had been knocking out an assortment of tomato cans, wannabes, blubber boys, and human

(Continued on page 58)

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19th CENTURY LIGHTWEIGHT

KID LAVIGNE

He Took It Until He Couldn't Take It Anymore

By Steve Nicolaisen

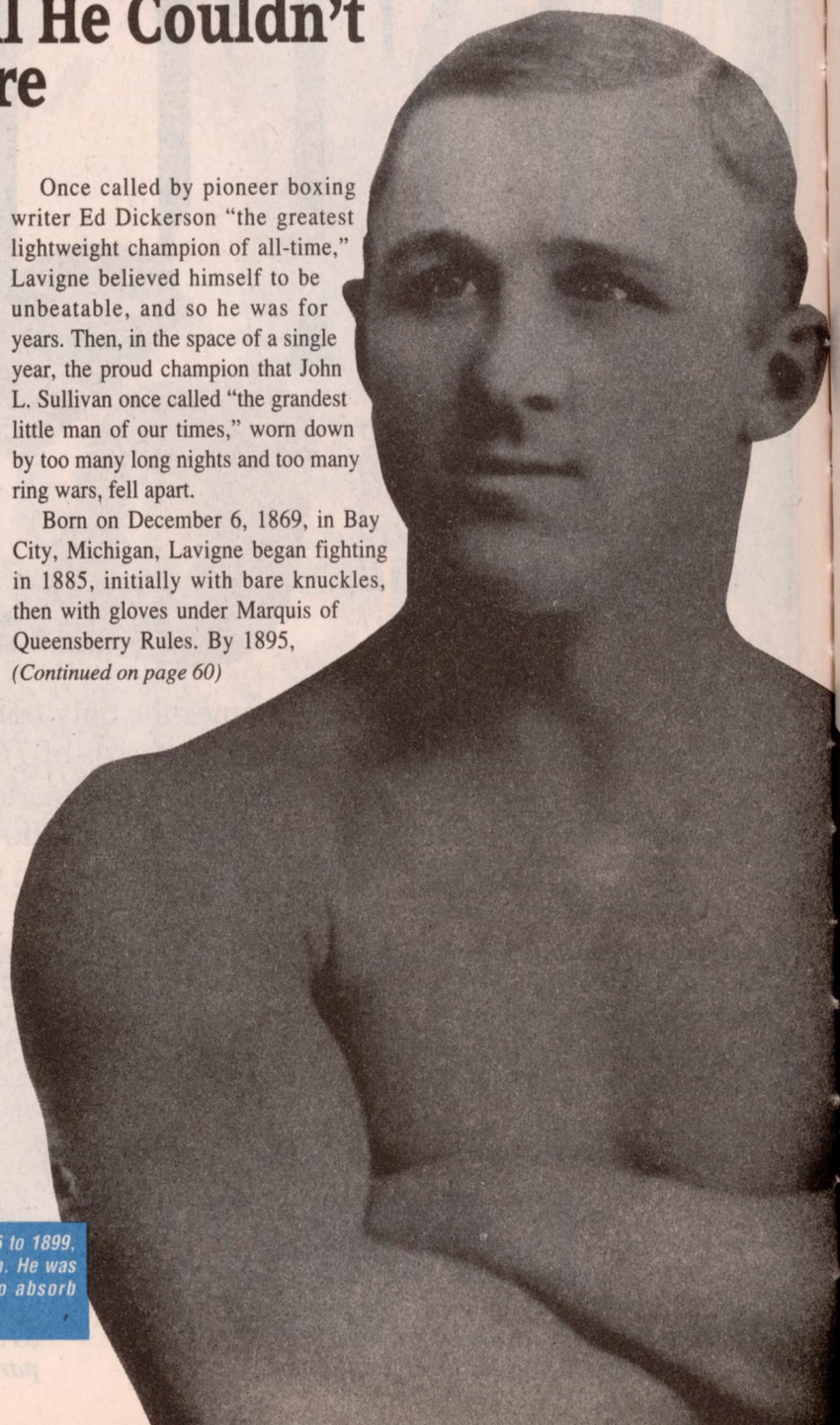
In boxing's Gaslight Era of the 1890s, a decade gloried by the names of John L. Sullivan, James J. Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons, George Dixon, Tommy Ryan, and Jack McAuliffe, they didn't come any tougher than "The Saginaw Kid," George Lavigne. A short, barrel-chested, bull-necked dynamo, Lavigne disdained the ring cleverness then making its way into boxing through such practitioners as Corbett, Dixon, and Ryan. The Kid had a simple philosophy: pound the body, then the head, until his opponent dropped or quit.

Granite-jawed, and without a reverse gear, Lavigne never met a punch he felt he couldn't take, absorbing his opponent's blows as he worked his way inside to wreak havoc at close range. Blood, cuts, bruises, pain—all meant nothing to Lavigne, whose fearlessness transcended his toughness. Consider the first of his two battles with Joe Walcott, when "The Barbados Demon" hit Lavigne with so hard a right that The Kid's left ear, already badly swollen, burst into a torn, bloody mess. Between rounds, trainer Buddy Bishop, unable to control the bleeding, told Lavigne, "I can't do anything with it." Unconcerned, Lavigne replied, "Let it hang. I can get to a sawbones later."

Once called by pioneer boxing writer Ed Dickerson "the greatest lightweight champion of all-time," Lavigne believed himself to be unbeatable, and so he was for years. Then, in the space of a single year, the proud champion that John L. Sullivan once called "the grandest little man of our times," worn down by too many long nights and too many ring wars, fell apart.

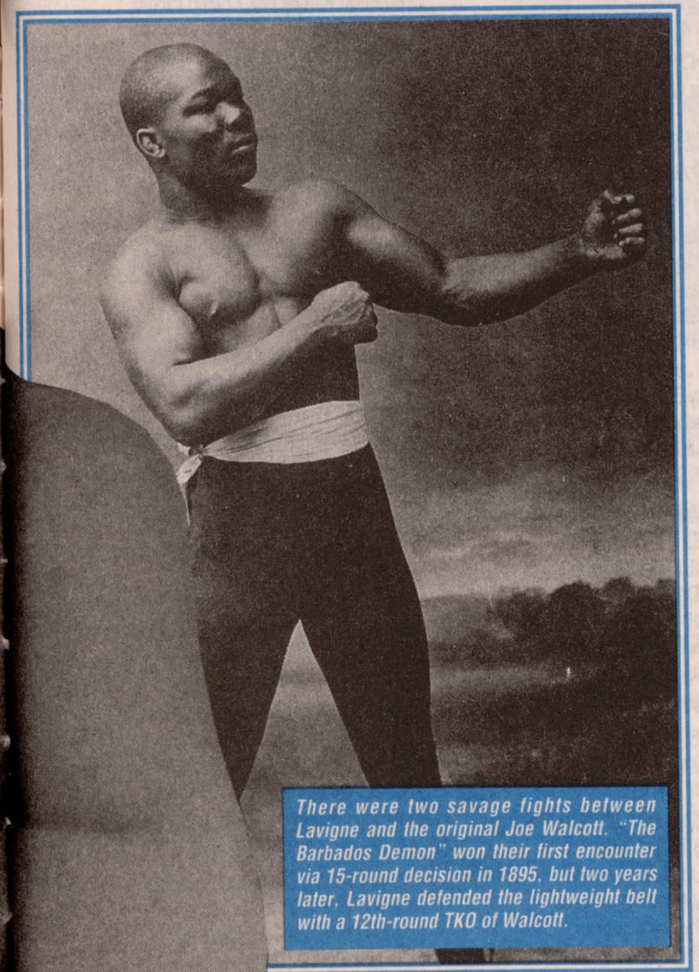
Born on December 6, 1869, in Bay City, Michigan, Lavigne began fighting in 1885, initially with bare knuckles, then with gloves under Marquis of Queensberry Rules. By 1895,

(Continued on page 60)

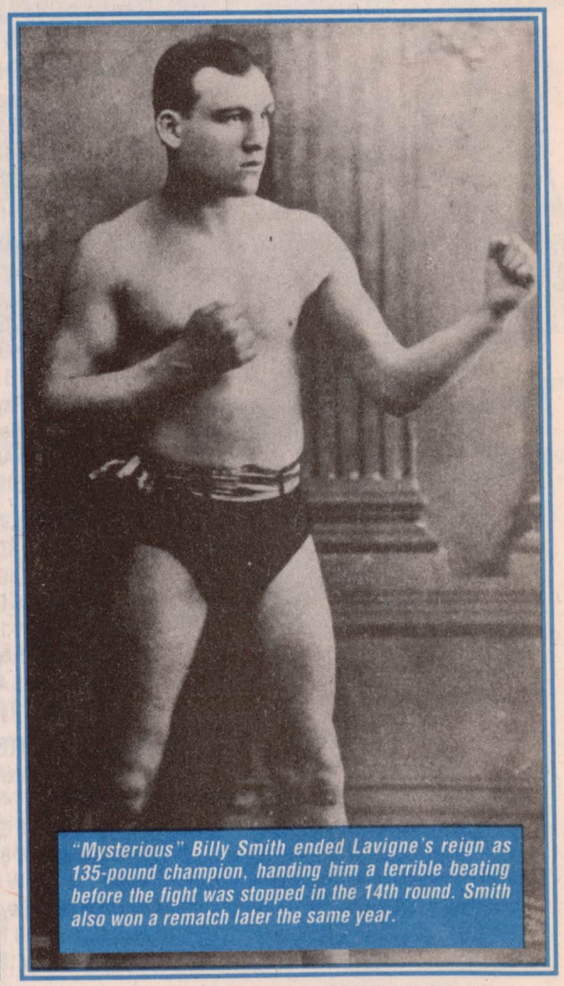


Lavigne ruled the lightweight division from 1896 to 1899, making seven successful defenses in the interim. He was renowned for his almost inhuman ability to absorb horrible punishment and rebound to win.

Lavigne poses with manager Sam Fitzpatrick (left) and trainer Michael "Dad" Butler while the trio was in London for Lavigne's fight with British champion Dick Burge. "The Saginaw Kid" knocked out Burge in the 17th round to win the vacant world title.



There were two savage fights between Lavigne and the original Joe Walcott. "The Barbados Demon" won their first encounter via 15-round decision in 1895, but two years later, Lavigne defended the lightweight belt with a 12th-round TKO of Walcott.



"Mysterious" Billy Smith ended Lavigne's reign as 135-pound champion, handing him a terrible beating before the fight was stopped in the 14th round. Smith also won a rematch later the same year.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Larry Holmes W 10 Maurice Harris
Obed Sullivan W 10 Carlos Monroe
Obed Sullivan W 10 Garing Lane
Larry Donald KO 2 Tyrell Biggs
Larry Donald KO 3 Jeff Lally
Axel Schulz KO 9 Kevin McBride
Ezra Sellers KO 1 John McClain
Levi Billups W 10 Carlos Monroe
James Gaines KO 6 Terrance Lewis
Jeremy Williams KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Ed Mahone KO 2 Belloc Occhi
Ed Mahone KO 3 Val Smith
Lyle McDowell W 12 Trevor Berbick
Alonzo Highsmith W 8 Martin Lopez
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Jim Hayes
Tony Tubbs KO 5 Mario Melo
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 2 Bryant Smith
Josh Imardiyi KO 6 Michael Rush
Butterbean D 4 Bill Eaton
Butterbean W Disq. 4 Yacqui Ruiz

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Marcelo Dominguez W 12 Akim Tafer
(Retains WBC Title)
Arthur Williams W 12 Steve Little
Jens Ploesser W 10 Alexander Jacob
Saul Montana W 10 Cesar Rendon

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Roy Jones KO 1 Montell Griffin
(Regains WBC Title)
Merqui Sosa KO 2 Glenn Thomas
Jose Luis Rivera KO 6 Rocky Gannon
Lincoln Carter KO 6 Jaime Montano
Will Taylor W 12 Ray Berry
Frank Tate W 12 Norbert Nieroba
Aaron Davis KO 6 Alfonzo Daniels
Antonio Tarver KO 1 Shelby Gross

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Joseph Kiwanuka KO 7 Thomas Reid
Anwar Oshana W 10 Julian Samaha
Dean Francis KO 6 David Starie
Joey DeGrandis W 10 Bernice Barber
Robert Allen KO 2 James Mason
Thomas Tate KO 5 Alexander Boy
Omar Sheika W 8 Tyrone Glover

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Green W 12 William Joppy
(Wins WBA Title)
Silvio Branco KO 6 Gustavo Francisco Freda
Santos Cardona W 8 Rene Valdez
Stephane Ouellet W 10 Joey Stevenson
Alex Hilton W 10 Bey Abaz
James Coker W 10 Tyrone Jackson
Urbano Gurrola W 12 Rogerio Cacciatore

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Raul Marquez W 12 Keith Mullings
(Retains IBF Title)
Terry Norris KO 2 Joaquin Velasquez
(Non-Title Bout)
Terry Norris KO 2 Andres Arellano
(Non-Title Bout)
Felix Trinidad KO 1 Troy Waters
(Non-Title Bout)
Verno Phillips KO 11 Godfrey Nyakana
Davide Ciarlante KO 6 Said Bennajem
Ryan Rhodes KO 2 Ed Griffin
Rodney Jones KO 12 Tim Shocks
Kevin Kelly W 12 Sam Soliman
Pedro Guererro Ortega KO 5 Rossman Henry
Rhoshii Wells KO 1 Ernest Johnson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Hector Camacho
(Retains WBC Title)
Oba Carr KO 5 Julian Samaha
Vernon Forrest W 10 Jaime Lerma
Wilfredo Rivera KO 5 Benji Marquez
Shannan Taylor W 10 Victor Baranov
Jose Rivera W 10 Teddy Reid
Geoff McCreesh KO 10 Kevin Lueshing
Peter Malinga KO 3 Alessandro Duran
Edwin Rosario W 12 Roger Flores
Purcell Miller KO 6 John Stewart
Fernando Vargas KO 1 Kevin Payne
J.C. Candelo KO 5 Wilfredo Vazquez

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Vince Phillips KO 3 Micky Ward
(Retains IBF Title)
Reggie Green W 12 Ray Oliveira
Jan Bergman KO 2 Alan McDowall
Tony Lopez W 10 Yoani Cervantes
Sharmba Mitchell KO 5 Dezi Ford
Lamar Murphy KO 1 Billy Wooten
Terron Millett KO 1 Jimmy Morgan
Freddie Rojas W 10 Gerald Reed
Joel Perez Tech. Draw 2 Benito Rodriguez
Edwin Rosario KO 8 Sanford Ricks
Naas Scheepers KO 6 Ranel Mercardo
Paul Burke W 12 Bernard Paul
Terrance Cauthen W 4 Theon Holland
Christy Martin W 8 Isra Girgrah
Lucia Rijker KO 3 Andrea Deshong

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley W 12 Phillip Holiday
(Wins IBF Title)
Stevie Johnston W 12 Saul Duran
(Retains WBC Title)
George Scott W 10 Mark Ramsey
Carlos Gerena KO 8 John Bronson
Ahmed Santos W 10 Tony Ridges
Wilfredo Negron KO 1 Alexis Barcelay
Eduardo Morales W 10 Ramon Zavala
Acelino Freitas KO 7 Edwin Vazquez
Terrance Cauthen W 4 Eldon Sneed

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Derrick Gainer KO 9 Manuel Medina
Julien Lorcy KO 3 Roberto Godoy
Angel Manfredy KO 8 Jorge Paez
Tom Johnson W 10 Vincent Howard

Robert Garcia KO 1 Roy Lee Simpson
Jesus Chavez KO 4 Wilfredo Negron
Felipe Garcia W 10 Miguel Arrozal
Floyd Mayweather KO 2 Luis Leija

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Wilfredo Vazquez W 12 Roque Cassiani
(Retains WBA Title)
Ever Beleno KO 4 Jose Luis Montes
Hector Velazquez KO 8 Ever Beleno
Bones Adams W 12 Mike Juarez
Lewis Wood KO 10 Jose Luis Noyola
David Santos W 10 Enrique Valenzuela
Tony Wehbee KO 2 November Ntshingila
Sean Fletcher KO 6 Hector Santana
Guty Espadas Jr. W 10 Al Kotey
Luis Freitas W 12 Moises Cerillos

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Erik Morales KO 11 Daniel Zaragoza
(Wins WBC Title)
Vuyani Bungu W 12 Enrique Jupiter
(Retains IBF Title)
Freddie Norwood W 12 Agapito Sanchez
Marius Frias KO 9 Jesse Magana
Angel Rosario W 12 Eddie Saenz
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 8 Mauricio Martinez
Jose Rojas W 10 Pastor Maurin
Pastor Maurin W Disq. 8 Reynaldo Hurtado
Carlos Navarro W 10 Marcos Licona
Geraldo Martinez KO 7 Enrique Adame

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Paulie Ayala W 10 Ricardo Medina
Paulie Ayala KO 5 Roberto Lopez
Adan Vargas KO 4 Enrique Orozco
Patrick Quka KO 11 Gianmaria Petriccioli
Cuauhtemoc Gomez W 12 David Griman

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Yokthai Sithoar W 12 Jesus Rojas
(Retains WBA Title)
Gerry Penalosa W 10 Polo Saucedo
(Non-Title Bout)
Luigi Castiglione W 12 Suwachai Chalermsi
Joel Luna Zarate KO 1 Jorge Roman

FLYWEIGHTS

Mark Johnson W 12 Angel Almena
(Retains IBF Title)
Jose Bonilla W 12 Evangelio Perez
(Retains WBA Title)
Chatchai Dutchboy Gym KO 7 Juan Domingo Cordoba
(Retains WBC Interim Title)
Carlos Salazar W 12 Salvatore Fanni
Isidro Garcia KO 3 Leon Salazar
Miguel Granados DQ 9 Isidro Garcia
Scotty Olson KO 8 Jack Russell

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Melchor Cob Castro W 12 Jesus Chong

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez KO 5 Nene Sanchez
(Retains WBC Title)

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Unlike so many heir apparents, when his big moment came, Morales rose to the occasion and ascended to the throne. The monarch he deposed was WBC super bantamweight king Daniel Zaragoza, the seemingly ageless wonder who had fooled Father Time so often, we were starting to wonder if he'd made a pact with the Devil.

The 39-year-old Zaragoza did not abdicate without a struggle. The venerable warrior had his moments, but in the end could not deal with the youth, power, and craftsmanship of Morales. The new champ should also be lauded for the mature manner in which he handled such an unorthodox and savvy campaigner. The 21-year-old challenger refused to be frustrated by Zaragoza's awkward style and always rallied back when it seemed like the defending champion might take command.

Best of all, Morales appears to be a worthy predecessor to the wonderful old champion he replaced. And if he proves anywhere near as enduring as Zaragoza, he'll fight his way back to this spot many more times before he's through.

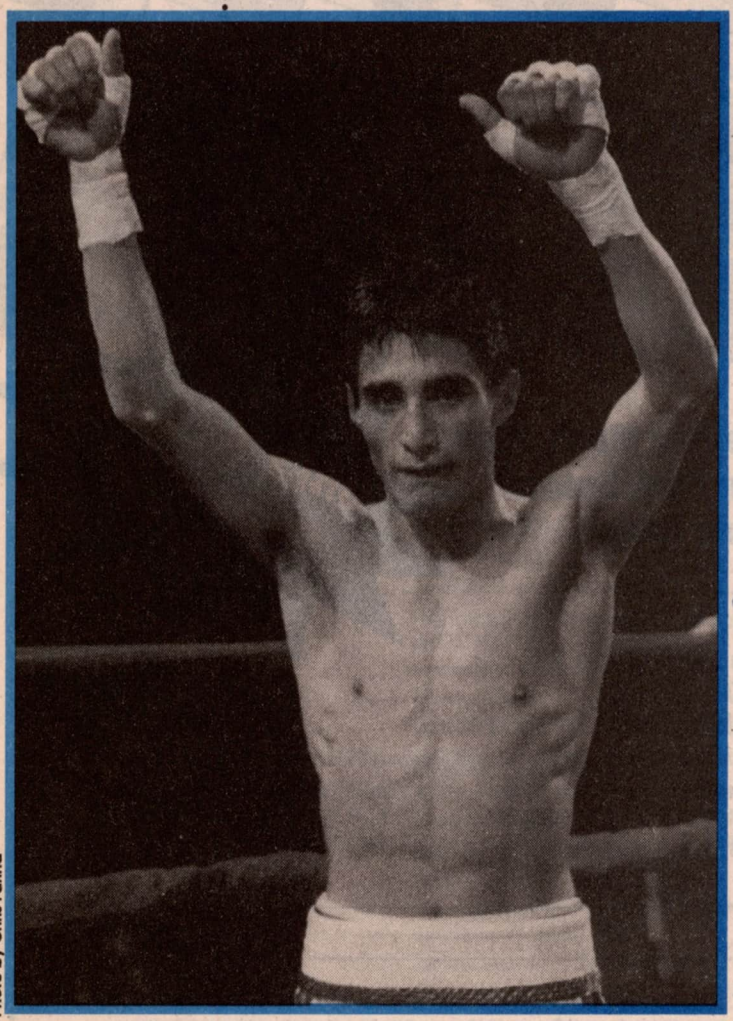
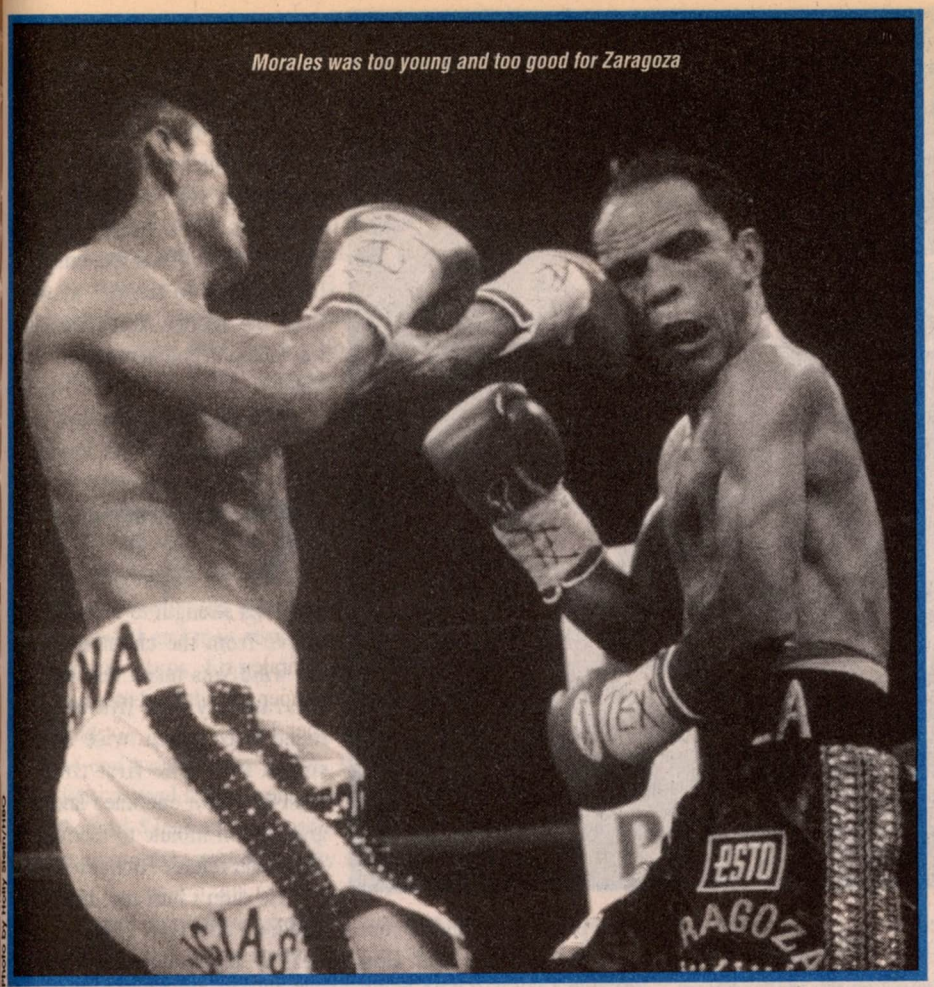


Photo by Chris Farina

Erik Morales



Morales was too young and too good for Zaragoza

Photo by Holly Stein/HBG

Erik Morales KO 11 Daniel Zaragoza

El Paso, Texas: In a classic changing of the guard fight, Morales, 21, survived a test of wills with battle-scarred WBC super bantamweight champion Zaragoza to register a thrilling 11th-round knockout and capture his first world title. The bout was held before 6,000 delirious, boxing-starved fans at the El Paso County Coliseum, who hadn't seen a world title fight in town since then-IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales stopped Paul Gonzales on cuts in June 1990.

Zaragoza, 122, Mexico City, opened aggressively, lunging at Morales, 121¼, Ciudad, Mexico, with awkward, looping uppercuts. He was making the fourth defense of his current reign, and seemed intent on keeping the belt. And at first, Morales, 27-0 (21), seemed bewildered by the defending champion's roundhouse blows.

Zaragoza's unorthodox attack almost paid off in the fourth, when he cracked Morales with a solid left. The younger man's knees dipped for an instant, and the wily champion, sensing the end, attacked with abandon. However, a warning for hitting low from referee Laurence Cole (USA) gave Morales a few valuable seconds to recover, and by round's end, he'd taken command with a big flurry.

Southpaw Zaragoza's last big round was the fifth, when he pushed Morales into the ropes and pounded his body with thudding lefts. But when Morales launched his own body assault, the craggy-faced champion began to look every bit his 39 years.

After a scary moment in the sixth, when both warriors lunged and cracked heads, Morales continued the body assault that would eventually result in the title changing hands. And when Morales began following his hook to the body with whistling right uppercuts, Zaragoza's only recourse was an ungainly looking clinch.

In the eighth round, Morales let it all hang out, and hurt Zaragoza by digging to the body and then bouncing quick lefts and rights off his head. It looked for all the world like Zaragoza was finished, but his stubborn refusal to capitulate was awe-inspiring. At the end of the round, Morales dragged back to his corner and slumped on his stool, his chest heaving with the effort of pounding on his adversary nonstop for three minutes.

Zaragoza, meanwhile, stood in the middle of the ring and soaked in the roaring cheers of the fans, blood streaming from a gash above his left eye. It was a special moment for the soon-to-be deposed champion, who usually fights in his opponent's backyard and is rarely received as adoringly as he was in El Paso.

Morales dropped the weary Zaragoza with a right to the body in the 10th, and made him cringe every time he fired his laser-like left to the liver. Still, Zaragoza survived. But he reached the end of his endurance in the 11th when Morales fired a vicious right to the solar plexus that landed with such force that Zaragoza did a semi-somersault after hitting the floor.

As Zaragoza, 55-8-3, (27), sat on the canvas watching Cole count him out (2:59 into the round), he pointed to Morales as if to say, "You got me, kid."

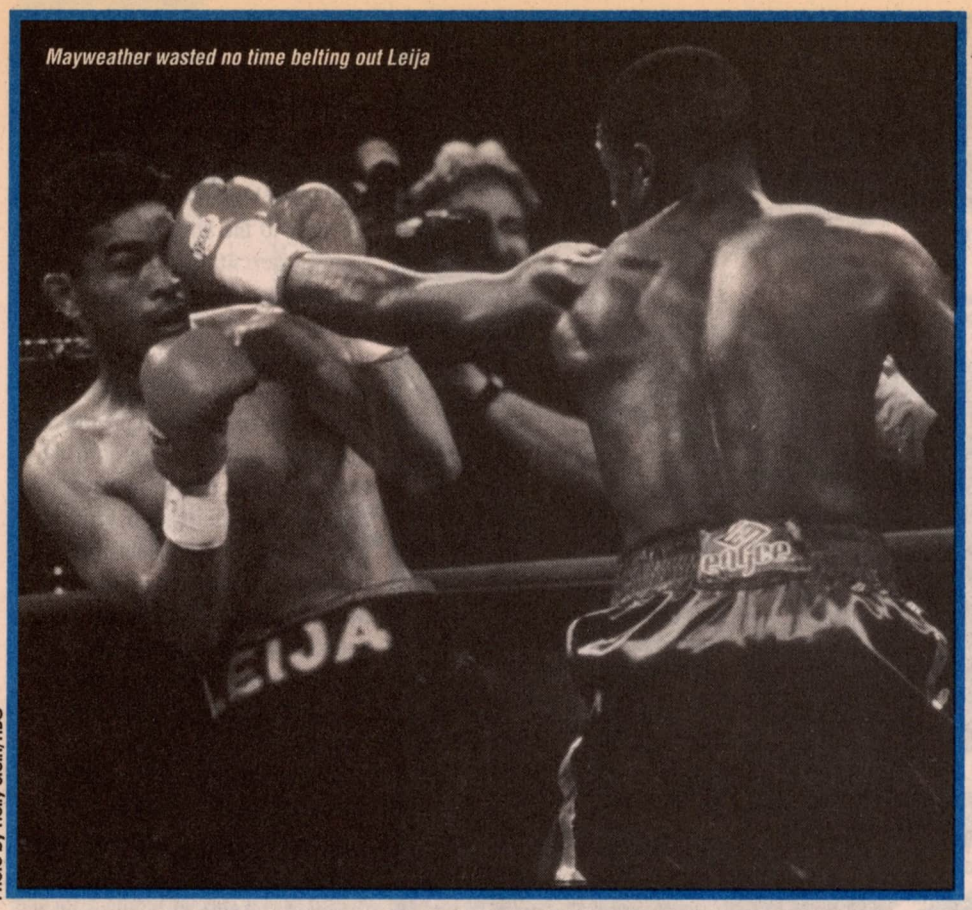
At the time of the knockout, Morales was ahead on two of the three scorecards. Bob Logists (Belgium) scored for Morales by 96-93, as did Terry Smith (USA), 95-94, while Tom Kaczmarek (USA) had Zaragoza ahead, 95-94.

Promoter: Top Rank
(9-6-97)
Matthew Aguilar

Floyd Mayweather KO 2 Louie Leija

El Paso: In a performance that certified his status as a future superstar, Mayweather stopped veteran Leija with a blistering volley of right hands 23 seconds into the second round.

Mayweather, 131, Las Vegas, coolly boxed in the opening moments of round one, probing with his piston-like jab as Leija tried to figure out a way to get inside. Nothing much happened until Leija tried to match jabs with the 1996 Olympic bronze



Mayweather wasted no time belting out Leija

Photo by Holly Stein/HBO

medalist. Mayweather, 10-0 (8), immediately took advantage of the huge disparity in speed, and countered a lazy Leija jab with a sizzling right that put the San Antonio native on the canvas before he knew what hit him.

Mayweather followed by trapping Leija, 132, on the ropes and unleashing a 20-punch whirlwind that prompted referee Jerry McKenzie to issue a standing eight-count. The bell postponed the inevitable—but not for long.

The blitzkrieg continued in the second, as Mayweather, 20, again dumped Leija, 24, with a counter right. Leija, 18-4-1 (14), got up, but this time there would be no escape. Mayweather rained punch after punch on the outclassed Texan, who was getting pounded on the ropes and starting to sag toward the canvas when McKenzie called a halt.

Afterward, Mayweather, fired-up by a Hispanic crowd that had been pro-Leija, taunted the packed El Paso County Coliseum by standing on the ropes and flexing his muscles.

Promoter: Top Rank

(9-6-97)

Matthew Aguilar

Marcelo Dominguez W 12 Akim Tafer

Cannes, France: Combination punching and continued pressure proved the difference for Dominguez, 179, Argentina, who retained the WBC cruiserweight title by unanimous decision at the Palais des Sports for the fifth time against Tafer, 179, France, whom he had stopped in nine rounds to win the vacant title in July 1995.

The challenger came in with tendon trouble in his right elbow that necessitated a pain-killing injection beforehand. In addition to killing the pain, however, it seemed to kill all life in both his arms, so reluctant was he to press the action. Neither did he take advantage of his height. He just stood in front of his foe, enabling Dominguez to tee off at will. Even the shorter Argentine's jab was a more potent weapon than Tafer's.

"I lacked sharpness, not having boxed for over six months," said the Frenchman. "But up until the end I believed I could win."

Tafer, 30, began well enough, using his strength to take the initiative from the champion. But the wind was taken out of him, figuratively and literally, in round three, when twice he was struck low. The first time he went down on one knee and was given a full minute to recover by American referee Richard Steele.

"He didn't hurt me, but I had a bad patch in the middle rounds," added Tafer, 24-7 (15).

In the seventh round, Dominguez, 27, threw a powerful uppercut that loosened two of Tafer's upper teeth. They were both removed in the dressing room afterward. In the eighth, Tafer was sent reeling around the ring from the force and volume of Dominguez' combinations. But the Frenchman remained belligerent and upright despite sustaining another low blow from Dominguez in round 11 for which the champion was penalized a point.

"Tafer was stronger than the first time, but I worked hard," said Dominguez, 22-1-1 (12).

Rudy Ortega (USA) scored heavily for the champion, 117-112. Larry O'Connell (Great Britain) and Daniel Van De Wiele (Belgium) had it closer, 117-115 and 115-114, respectively, for Dominguez.

Promoter: AB Stars Production

(8-16-97)

Brian Doogan

Ricardo Lopez KO 5 Alex Sanchez

New York, New York: When Lopez defended his WBC strawweight title at Madison Square Garden, he joined a fabled group of world champions who have fought inside what was once boxing's mecca. When he emerged victorious, he became a member of a more exclusive group of champions.

Lopez, 105, Mexico, thoroughly dismantled Sanchez, 105, Puerto Rico, to make his 20th consecutive defense of the WBC's 105-pound title. In the history of boxing, only heavyweights Joe Louis (25) and Larry Holmes (20) and featherweight Abe Attell

(20) have made 20 or more title defenses in the same division.

On paper, this seemed as if it could be one of Lopez' most competitive fights. Sanchez had lost just once in 26 fights while registering 18 knockouts. But when the bell rang, Lopez immediately established his brilliance. Reminiscent of former Mexican great Salvador Sanchez, Lopez systematically dissected the Puerto Rican challenger with a stinging jab and rapid combinations.

For Lopez, it must have seemed as if he was fighting in San Juan because the crowd of 14,162 was primarily Puerto Rican. As faint chants of "MAY-HEEKO, MAY-HEEKO," broke out inside the Garden, they were quickly drowned out by louder chants of "PUERTO RICO, PUERTO RICO."

Lopez, 30, had his own antidote for the crowd—a lethal right hand. In round two, Lopez, 46-0 (34), dropped Sanchez with a pair of crisp right crosses. In the third, a right uppercut wobbled Sanchez, who gave his loyal followers something to cheer about with two solid rights of his own late in the round.

Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. (USA) deducted a point from the 22-year-old challenger in the fourth after Sanchez wrestled Lopez to the ground and then struck him in the side while the Mexican was on his knees. Lopez didn't take kindly to that, and made Sanchez pay by delivering a series of solid left hooks to the body and head.

The end came in round five. Lopez connected with a pair of hard jabs, missed a right hand, and then connected with a left hook that floored Sanchez once again. Sanchez reached his feet, but remained wobbly, and Mercante stopped the contest at the 1:58 mark.

"I admire you," Sanchez told Lopez after the fight. "You are a great champion. I was prepared, but you beat the heck out of me."

Promoter Don King announced that Lopez will face WBA 105-pound champion Rosendo Alvarez on October 25 on the Julio Cesar Chavez-Miguel Angel Gonzalez card in Mexico.

The judges were Chuck Williams (USA), William Learch (USA), and Melvina Lathan (USA).

(8-23-97)

Robert Cassidy

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Enrique Jupiter

Hammanskraal, South Africa: In a sub-par performance, Bungu, 33-2 (18), retained the IBF junior featherweight title for the ninth time with a 12-round unanimous decision over Mexican challenger Jupiter, 31-8-1 (26), before a crowd of approximately 3,000 at the Carousel Gambling Resort.

Bungu, 121½, suffered an injury over his left eye in the first round, which was reopened in the sixth. However, the expertise of trainer Harold Volbrecht kept the cut under control.

Jupiter, 121, proved a surprise package and put up a gutsy performance, but ran too much in the middle rounds. Had it not been for his Ali-like antics, the 25-year-old Mexican could have possibly pulled an upset.

There were no knockdowns, but Bungu, 30, kept his cool throughout and finished strongly the final two rounds.

The scores of South African judges Loyiso Mtya (117-112) and Alfred Buqwana (116-13) were a little too generous toward their countryman, while the 115-113 tally of American judge Eugenia Williams gave a fairer reflection of the fight.

The referee was South Africa's Stanley Christodoulou.

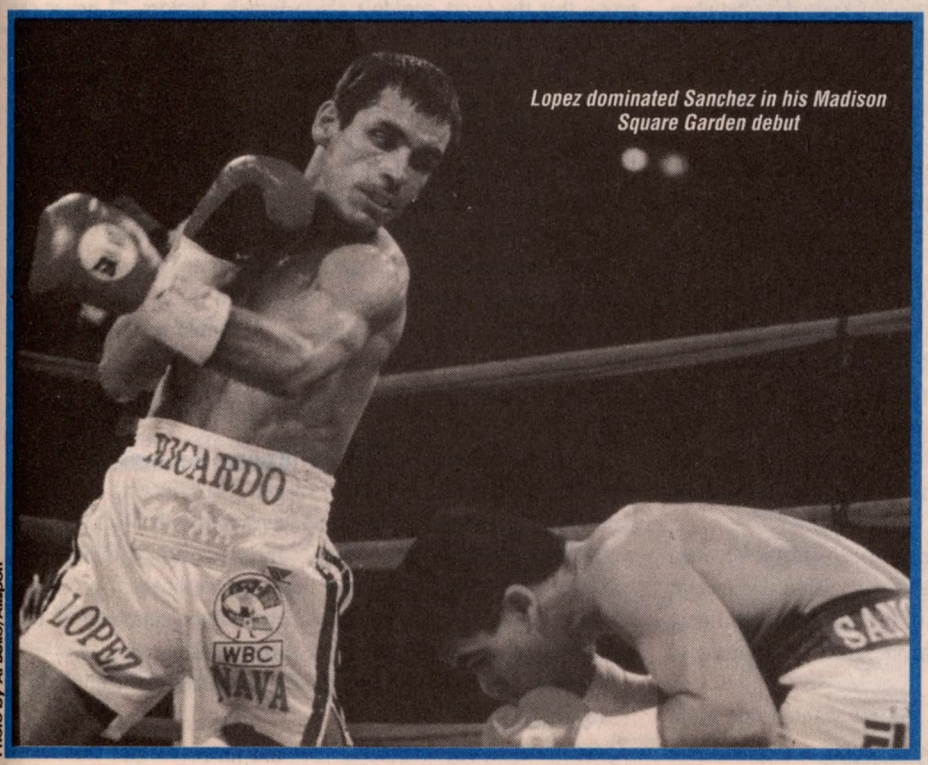
Promoter: Rodney Berman, Golden Gloves Promotions

(8-16-97)

Ron Jackson

Yokthai Sithoar W 12 Jesus Rojas

Bangkok, Thailand: In a hotly disputed bout that featured a Tysonesque ear-biting incident, Thailand's Sithoar retained the WBA junior bantamweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over former WBA flyweight champion Rojas at the Emerald Hotel ballroom. It was Sithoar's fourth successful defense of the title he won from Alimi Goitia in August 1996.



Lopez dominated Sanchez in his Madison Square Garden debut

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Rojas, 31-6-1 (14), had his best round in the second when he almost toppled the defending champion with a solid left-right combination. Sithoar, 14-0-1 (8), rebounded in the third and pinned his challenger on the ropes with a flurry of punches. However, Rojas regained the upper hand in the fourth and shook the 21-year-old Sithoar again.

In every round thereafter, Rojas, 33, started well with stinging jabs, but Sithoar kept coming forward, and invariably nailed the Venezuelan veteran to the ropes with a barrage of punches. Rojas covered up well, but Sithoar obviously impressed the judges with his aggression.

The highlight of the match came in

the 11th round when Sithoar suddenly cried out and claimed that Rojas had bit him on the ear during a clinch. Referee Rafael Ramos (USA) didn't understand what the champion was saying, and ordered the fighters keep boxing. The enraged Sithoar initiated a rough brawl in retaliation, but no penalties resulted.

The scoring, all in favor of Sithoar, was as follows: Kazunobu Asao (Japan) 116-112, Gullermo Perez (Panama) 116-114, and Hector Hernandez (Mexico) 115-114.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(8-8-97)

Joe Koizumi

Vince Phillips KO 3 Micky Ward

Boston: Phillips retained the IBF junior welterweight title against local hero Ward before a sellout crowd of 1,200 in the Roxy nightclub and a national ABC audience. But the bigger loser may have been Massachusetts boxing, as the aftermath saw promoter Bob Arum vowing to avoid staging future big bouts in the Bay State.

Although both men came into the ring with compelling personal histories, every tale cannot have a storybook ending. Phillips rebounded from drug addiction to win a world title at 34. Ward, who retired in 1991 after losing six of his previous nine bouts, had seemingly ended a career plagued by brittle hands, family problems, and a lack of focus in important fights. However, a nine-fight winning streak fueled this comeback and earned him this opportunity.

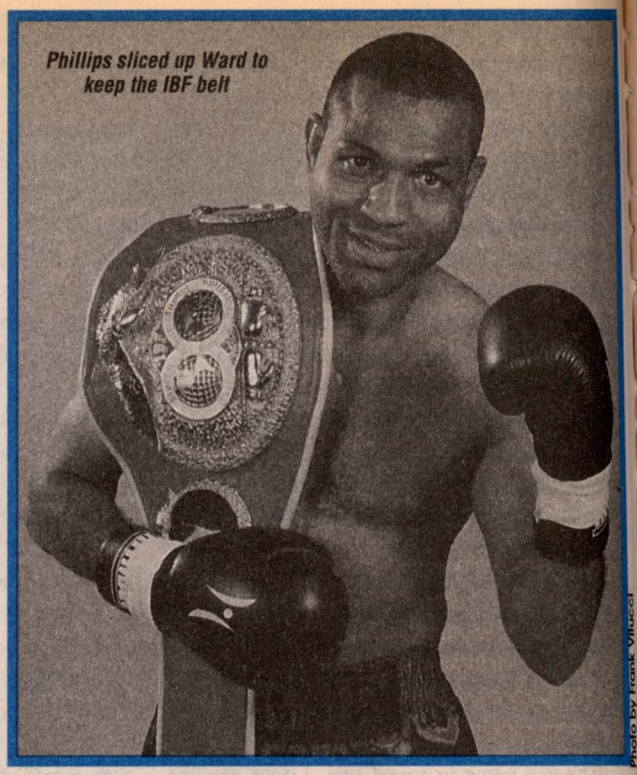
Ward, 140, Lowell, Massachusetts, gave a good account of himself in the early going, landing a handful of jarring bodyshots. But Phillips, 139½, Las Vegas, Nevada, controlled the action with his left jab and mixed in accurate right crosses. Late in the second round, Phillips, 37-3 (26), began scoring with looping body hooks that seemed to be forcing Ward, 30-8 (21), into a protective shell.

Ward, 31, tried to get something started by switching between southpaw and conventional styles in the third round. With about 1:10 left in the frame, as he spun out of clinch, Ward briefly held Phillips' head with his left hand and crashed an overhand right off the champ's jaw. Phillips pulled back, stepped to the side, and countered with a three-punch combination. A crevice was visible immediately over Ward's left eye. As the round progressed, blood flowed down Ward's face and he pawed at the wound to keep his vision clear.

Finally referee Dick Flaherty (USA) called a halt and summoned ringside physician Dr. Patricia Yoffe to inspect the wound. Yoffe recommended halting the bout at 2:49, touching off a brief moment of chaos as Ward partisans pelted the ring with beer cups, and at least one fan was arrested for heaving a chair. The gash was about two inches long and nearly half-an-inch wide, and when Ward's cornermen treated the cut, the tip of a Q-tip fit completely inside the gash.

"I begged the doctor to let my cutman try to stop it between rounds," Ward said later, "but I respect her decision. He caught me with a good right hand right on top of the eye. I was confident that I was coming on. He's wide open inside, and I was starting to get in there."

"Micky's strength is his tenacity, and we wanted one more round," added Mickey O'Keefe, the Lowell Police sergeant who trains Ward. "We'd have preferred they let it get back to the corner and let us work on it."



Phillips sliced up Ward to keep the IBF belt

Photo by Frank Vilucci

"I felt like they'd let it go on," admitted Phillips, who was making the first defense of the title he'd won from Kostya Tszyu in May. "But then when I saw it, it was pretty deep." (Ward subsequently needed 12 stitches.)

Arum was incensed, and spent most of his postfight press conference excoriating the Massachusetts Boxing Commission. He'd already suggested to the ABC microphones that the incident might prove that the sport couldn't abide female doctors. "I never saw anything dumber than what this doctor did," Arum said. "I think they'd probably have had to stop it in the next round anyway, but you have to let his corner have a chance to close the cut between rounds. Maybe we can put this fight back together in Nevada or Connecticut, where the doctors know what they're doing. This is the price you pay for inexperience. It's unfair and it's wrong, and I feel responsible for bringing the fight to Massachusetts."

Said Bill Pender of the state commission: "Bob Arum has a financial interest, and no other interest, in these boxers. I think attacking Patti Yoffe's credibility as a woman doctor is a lot of crap. People don't know there was a second, male, doctor there who agreed, and once you know that, Arum's argument has no validity."

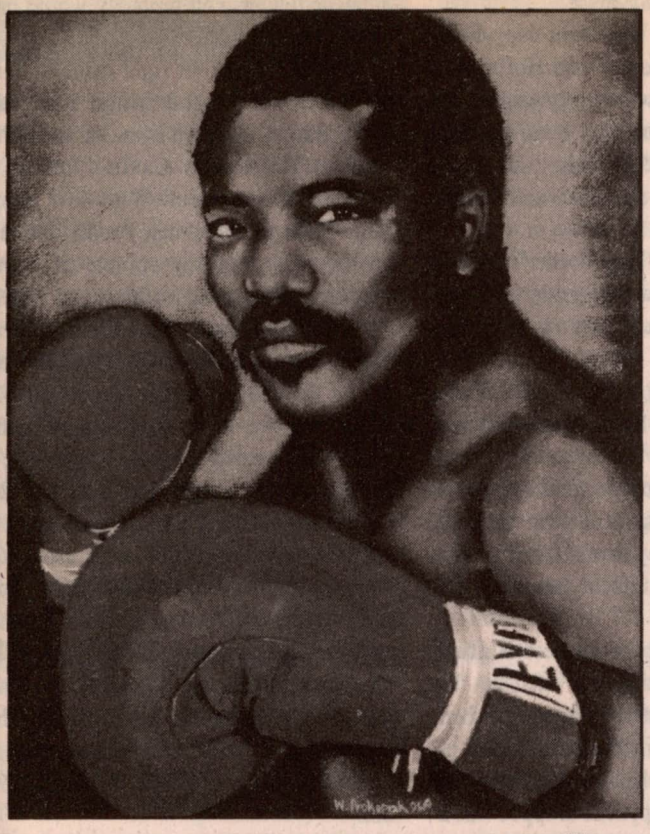
Dr. Emil Jacques, an orthopedic surgeon, was the second physician, stationed by Phillips' corner. "Considering the length, width, depth, and active bleeding involved with Micky's cut, I would do exactly the same thing," Jacques said. "I totally agree with Dr. Yoffe. She did the best thing for the boxer. I probed the cut myself in the ring, and I found about one centimeter of bone exposed. The only issue here is the safety of the boxers."

Promoters: Top Rank and ABC Promotions (Rich Cappiello)

(8-9-97)

Jay Miller ■

Legends of Boxing



Aaron Pryor

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New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

couldn't jump rope for long, he couldn't box for long."

Hoffman's first move was to bring Poeder to America, where he would train with Hector Roca at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, New York. Life on the other side of the pond was made easier because both Tuur and Raymond Joval, another Dutch fighter, were living and training in New York at the time.

"For me, it was important to come to the United States because boxing isn't as big in Holland," said Poeder. "I had Reggie and Raymond around, but I was still homesick the first year. It was the first time I was away from my family and friends for any length of time. Now, sometimes I can't wait to leave Holland and start training."

Hoffman arranged for Poeder to turn pro in Rotterdam, Holland, where the fighter was born. In April 1994, fighting on one of Tuur's undercards, Poeder knocked out Ken Wood in the second round.

"That was really special," said Poeder. "I worked very hard for that night. I was prepared."

Poeder progressed well his first year as a pro, scoring two more knockouts and winning a four-round decision. But stamina was still a problem. It turned out to be part physical and part bad advice. Poeder had his tonsils removed, which helped his breathing. He also began doing more roadwork. As an amateur, Poeder had been instructed to run only three times a week. When he moved to the USA, he began running five days a week and resting only on the weekends.

"If it had been up to me, I would've been running twice a day," said Poeder. "But I didn't know any better."

As Poeder's stamina grew, so did his confidence. Also providing him with a mental boost was the work he was doing in the gym. He was sparring with top-ranked fighters, and suddenly, unburdened by the fear of running out of gas, he was dishing out punishment that was surprising the veterans he was working with. Poeder's sparmates included top-ranked cruiserweight Sergei Kobozev and world-class heavyweights Alex Stewart, Buster Mathis Jr., Ray Anis, and Lou Savarese.

"He got in the ring with everybody, heavyweights included," said Hoffman. "I watched Don spar with heavyweights, and not only did he hold his own, he often came out on top. If he didn't, he always came back the next day and wanted to spar again."

That has always been Poeder's philosophy. No matter what happened in the gym, he would come back and try harder the next day.

"I started boxing when a friend of mine asked me to go to a kickboxing match with him," said Poeder. "The next day we went to a boxing gym and decided to join. He never showed up again. I went back and got a black eye in my first sparring session. But I was back again the next day, and here I am."

Poeder continues to impress Hoffman with his determination and intensity. The manager first realized his prospect had championship potential in Poeder's eighth pro fight. Poeder was scheduled to box in New Orleans, but the opponent dropped out 24 hours before the bout. Neither Hoffman nor Poeder wanted to lose the opportunity, so they accepted Wesley Martin, a southpaw who weighed well over 200 pounds. Unaffected by his first fight against a lefty, who also happened to be a heavyweight, Poeder dropped Martin three times and won a unanimous six-round decision.

Poeder closed out 1995 with three straight knockouts, and followed with five kayo wins in '96. Fighting in Holland and the USA, he was building a reputation as a puncher on both sides of the Atlantic. At 6'1", Poeder considers himself a boxer-puncher, but it is clear that his strength is his ability to hurt an opponent with either a straight right or a left hook.

"Don can bang," said Hoffman. "There is not a cruiserweight in the world who can bang with him. And he takes a good punch."

It was a decision win against veteran Lenzie Morgan in February that raised Poeder's confidence yet another level. Poeder notched a unanimous 12-round verdict in Rotterdam, marking the first time he had fought the championship distance.

"It's not that Morgan was difficult to fight," said Poeder, "but I went 12 rounds, and the last three rounds were as strong as the first three. If you had seen me as an amateur fighter, you probably would have never believed that."

Poeder's breakout fight came in June, when he met rugged fringe contender Terry Ray in the main event of an ESPN2 card at Foxwoods Casino Resort in Ledyard, Connecticut. With new trainer Peter Kahn in his corner, Poeder dominated Ray with a steady volume of power-punches until scoring a 10th-round TKO.

The fight wasn't without controversy. There were no knockdowns, but both fighters hit the canvas. In the first round, Ray dropped to his knees, but referee Arthur Mercante Jr. ruled it a slip. In the fifth, as Poeder was landing heavy artillery, Ray clinched and spun him to the ropes. A split-second after Mercante broke the fighters, Ray landed a straight right, dropping Poeder. Mercante offered the Dutch cruiserweight five minutes to recover. He chose not to take the full time, and when the action resumed, he continued his steady attack. At the time of the stoppage, he led by scores of 87-83, 87-84, and 90-80.

"I think that fight definitely brought me to another level," said Poeder, who is 19-0 (15). "I gained so much experience. I went down, I got up, and I continued. I wanted to continue. I could have taken the easy way out. I think I gave him the worst beating he's ever gotten."

While the win over Ray earned the 25-year-old Poeder the spurious WBU cruiserweight title, he is still looking for opportunities. Right now, he considers himself the third best cruiserweight in the world, rating himself behind WBA champion Nate Miller and WBC titleholder Marcelo Dominguez.

"My ultimate goal is to get all the titles together and unify the cruiserweight division," said Poeder. "I'd like to fight Miller, but it doesn't matter who I fight, and it doesn't matter where I fight."

Poeder's only concern is to rule his division. But don't expect him to sneak in the back door. That's not his style. He'll barge right through the front door, regardless of which cruiserweight might be standing in the way. ■

Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in Wantagh, New York.

Tyson

(Continued from page 25)

bob, how to protect himself, how to throw punches in combination. Once a staff member told me he heard Michael in his room in the middle of the night, snorting like fighters do. He found him shadowboxing in the dark, practicing a move I had taught him. I remember joking that the kid would rather box than eat. He took to boxing like a hammer to a nail. Soon, I had to start training to keep up with him.

I liked teaching him; we shared a love for the sport. He was a strong kid. Once, I saw his friends bet him he couldn't lift 250 pounds. I watched him bench-press it 10 times. I even have a few of those I-struck-out-Mickey-Mantle stories. The time he hit me with the hardest jab I've ever taken. The time I knocked him down. Those are stories I used to tell.

But I'm not writing this story to suck on Mike Tyson's fame. The arena is already full of people who have done that and who will do it again, if they're given the chance. I was trying to teach him something more than how to box. I used boxing as a carrot to motivate him. I told him I'd only continue to work out with him if he didn't mess up. I thought boxing could improve his life the way it had improved mine. I bet on potential.

So we got to work. The first thing we went at was his school work. Someone in the State Division for Youth had tested Michael and decided he was borderline retarded. I knew that was crap; he was a fast learner and a bright kid, despite everything you might have heard. I told him he had to start trying, that he could fail every course, as long as he put his shoulder to the work. It became clear fast that he tested poorly because he had barely learned to read or write.

So I got another kid at the school to tutor him. Michael's progress nearly floored me. In just a few months, his reading score went from a third-grade level to a seventh-grade level. It was one of the most dramatic improvements the school had ever seen.

In a funny way, I began to admire him. I mean, here was a kid from a tough Brooklyn neighborhood. His dad abandons him. He's in trouble most of his life. He fails school and school fails him. Then, overnight, he finds a focus, a goal: boxing. He begins to learn. He stops getting into fights and behaves in class. In a place where change was rare, the boy changed, and changed dramatically. Most people don't change, no matter how old they are. And he was only 13.

I got to know him in that period. And while I now know he's still capable of great harm to himself and others, he was a good kid. He had a warm heart and a sense of humor. A steely discipline. A sharp mind. The potential to make something out of his life. The potential to become someone he'd be proud to be. That's why I introduced Michael to the legendary Cus D'Amato, the Catskill boxing guru who had trained champions such as Floyd Patterson and Jose Torres. After watching Michael spar for the first time, Cus said, "That's the next heavyweight champion of the world."

He was right, of course.

And I was wrong.

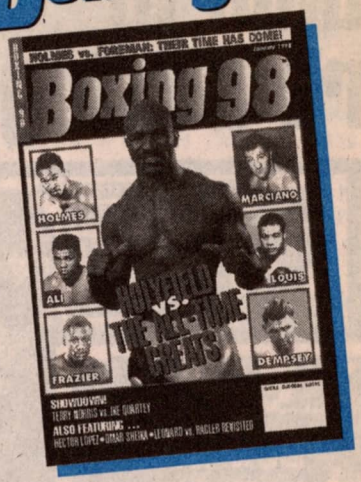
I believed boxing could save Michael Tyson. Add a discipline that could guide his life. And, for a while, it did work. It did help a troubled boy, but it hasn't brought the man lasting peace. What boxing has done is make Tyson rich and famous. And with that has come privilege. Like power, like money, like sex. Boxing is no longer a discipline; it's become a license. I mean, where else can you bite a man's ear off and still earn $27-million?

He lost this last fight to Evander Holyfield, and who knows, he may or may not get a rematch. He may never even box again. But it really doesn't matter. It doesn't matter to me if he wins or loses—or never puts on gloves again. Like you and me, a champ or an ex-champ has to come to grips with who he is. And that doesn't happen in a ring. It happens out of the public eye, in the heart and soul.

Mike Tyson must now fight a different fight, in a different ring. It's a personal struggle, another kind of workout. To succeed, he'll probably have to give something of himself, maybe to kids. I would like to believe that Tyson, like that 13-year-old kid, has reached another crossroads and will choose the right path.

The difference now is that I don't have any faith that boxing will save him. ■

THIS MONTH IN Boxing 98



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•It never happened when they were in their primes, but maybe the time is finally right for **George Foreman** and **Larry Holmes** to get it on. Both former heavyweight champs still have a lot of fight left in them. Read about the likelihood that the matchup will happen and about the probable outcome.

•Junior welterweight **Hector Lopez** certainly has had a checkered past, from engaging in gang violence to landing in jail for assaulting his girlfriend's father and cousin. BOXING 98 examines his fascinating story and shows how Lopez has turned his life—and boxing career—around.

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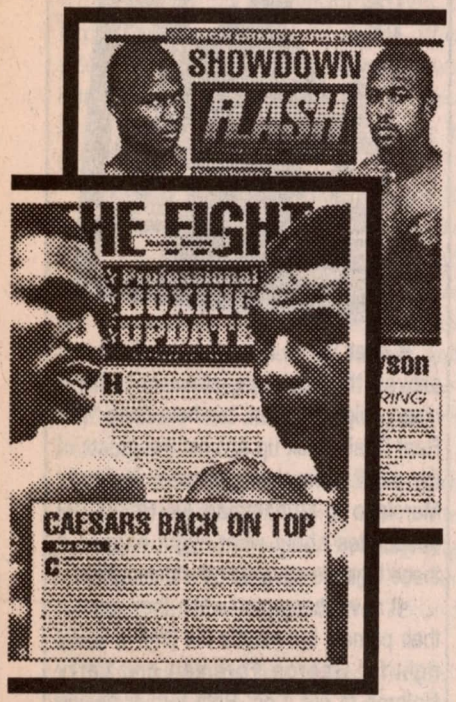

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Day Job

(Continued from page 29)

standing amateur, that is usually not the case. Nate just keeps steadily moving along. He's frugal because he worked so hard to get everything he has. He just joined AFTRA [the professional actors union] and is trying to get into modeling. He is always trying to do better, and never looking for an easy way out."

Sadler says Miller's "good, hard Christian work ethic" comes as much from his unflappable religious faith as his humble beginnings. His trunks are always adorned with the words "God Give The Glory," and Miller has not missed a Sunday of worship at the Way of the Cross Church in North Philadelphia in years.

Brewer, 27, developed his work ethic and gritty determination on some of the meaner streets of North Philadelphia, but says he used all the negativity to elicit a positive growth in himself. Less than a week after winning the title in June, he was back to work at the Advanta Corporation, a Horsham, Pennsylvania, mortgage firm, where he generates reports and conducts data extractions. Since graduating from high school a decade ago, he has never not worked, even when he was considered a top young professional prospect. Over the years he has had a variety of jobs, but feels as if he is at this one to stay, even though he is now a world champion.

"I don't feel any different now than I did before winning the title," said Brewer, 29-5 (20). "Within days I was back in the office doing the same stuff I did the week before. Working a full-time job and boxing at the same time is like second nature to me."

Frazier, 38, is a 13-year veteran of the NYPD and currently works as a patrol officer in the 26th Precinct, which encompasses Columbia University and a section of lower Harlem. He did not grow up too far away and is glad to be assigned there. He is also detailed out regularly to the Ceremonial Unit, which serves as the hosts and presenters at department functions, press conferences, award ceremonies, and funerals. In 1991, at age 31, Frazier was the oldest man to ever win a New York City Golden Gloves title. Since turning professional a year later, he's tallied a record of 14-3-1 (4) and is ranked by all the major organizations. He works as a police officer until 3 p.m daily, and is in the gym by 4 p.m. His road work is done before the morning roll call.

What Frazier likes most about being a police officer is his ability to work with kids on a regular basis and occasionally save one from the lurid temptations of the street.

"I like helping kids more than anything else," said Frazier. "If I can use my police status, as well as my boxing status to do that, it's all the better. As far as I'm concerned I got the best of both worlds. I love being a fighter and I love being a cop. I guess I'm pretty lucky."

Corbin, 23, just graduated from the police academy in July, and is employed as a patrol officer with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), which has jurisdiction over all the city's subways, buses, and elevated trains. He is currently training with veteran officers and is sure he made a wise career move, even though he had to put his boxing career on hold while at the academy. Although away from the game for six months, Corbin, 14-1 (12), held on to his top-10 ranking in several of the organizations, and is eager to begin phase two of one career as he embarks on phase one of his other career.

"He is one of the most responsible kids I've ever met, and I'm not just talking about boxers," said Corbin's manager, Eddie Woods. "He's got a real head on his shoulders and knows what is important and what's not. He's got a wife and two kids, and knows the importance of a pension, having health insurance, and getting the family a nice home."

"I've worked my whole adult life, so this is nothing new for me," said Corbin. "Before this, I was a security guard, a shift sergeant in a city hospital. Many of the patients were drug addicts, shooting victims, and people that were arrested. That was a tough job. What I'm doing now, and boxing, seems pretty easy compared to that."

Corbin credits his attitude with the example set by his mother, Angela, who has worked as a manager at Conrail since before he was born.

"It seemed like all she did was work

and take care of me and my sister, Felicia," he explained. "But I always knew how much she cared about me because she got me into boxing at 13 years old. I was getting into a lot of streetfights, and she thought this would get me out of that."

It was his mother who introduced him to another Conrail employee, Odell Cathay, who has trained him since the very first day he entered a boxing gym.

Twenty-two-year-old flyweight Eric Morel of Madison, Wisconsin, got a bad break at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. In his very first fight he was matched with the eventual gold medalist, Maikro Romero of Cuba, and lost a hard-fought decision.

Now, Morel, 9-0 (7), is making some noise in the division by fighting all over the country on shows promoted by Top Rank. He works part-time cleaning carpets at a local Holiday Inn, a job he has held for more than three years, and one he insists he would not quit even if he won a world title.

"This is the only job I have had as an adult, and these people have been very good to me," he said. "I really enjoy working as much as I enjoy boxing. I couldn't see myself walking away from the job entirely."

Morel says he is blessed with the fact that his boss allows him the flexibility to take time off for traveling and training, and that he will never forget that favorable treatment.

Manager Bob Lynch says Morel has a maturity level he has never seen in anyone else in boxing, and insists it was passed down from his extremely close immigrant family. The Morel family had moved to Madison from Puerto Rico after Eric's older brother Henry received a college scholarship at the local university.

"Besides the mother and father, there are seven brothers and sisters, and every damn one of them has a job," said Lynch. "The family is rock-solid, and hard work is no stranger to any of them."

Rodriguez, 31, works as a tile installer on Long Island, and has never been unemployed since he was a teenager. When he won the title, he was working as a motorcycle mechanic, but has also been employed as a machinist and automobile dealership driver.

His wife, Eveliss, says he has worked multiple jobs for so long that "he goes nuts if he has any spare time. He just loves to work." Although Rodriguez, 28-6-2 (8), has no fights scheduled for the immediate future, he still works out daily at the Westbury PAL, waiting for the phone to ring.

"I wish he would give up boxing completely, but that's what he wants, so I have to support him," said Eveliss. "Who am I to tell him what to do? That is something he has to decide for himself."

Perhaps the source of his latest motivation to continue boxing is the recent birth of he and Eveliss' second child, Christian, five months ago. Their other child, Jake, is two.

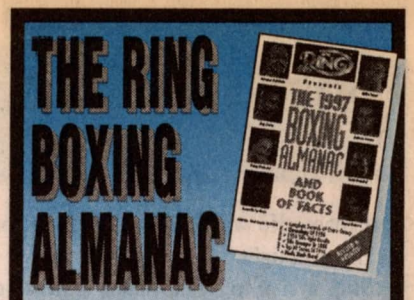
Ward, 30-8 (21), works for the Roads Corporation of Billerica, Massachusetts, a company that gives him much flexibility with his boxing schedule. He says the job has provided him with a degree of security for him and his daughter Brittany, but he is still seeking one last shot at boxing's brass ring. He has not had much luck since embarking on his latest comeback several years ago.

He saw a fight with Julio Cesar Chavez canceled, and suffered a hand injury in a fight with Manny Castillo, as well as a fight-stopping cut in his competitive battle with Phillips in August. "I have the ability to make a good living," Ward has said, "but I just have to see how far this comeback will take me."

While these current fighters seem more like exceptions than rules, perhaps the proverbial fighter with a day job was Billy "Dynamite" Douglas, the father of Buster Douglas, and a '70s journeyman in the most noble sense of the word. He recalls working as a supervisor at a Columbus, Ohio, manufacturing plant in 1976 when he got a 9 a.m. call to fight up-and-coming Pedro Soto at Madison Square Garden that night. He packed his bag, caught a flight to New York, went to the weigh-in, took a nap, then lost a hard-fought split decision that most observers thought he won. He was back at work the next morning.

"I did things like that quite a bit back then," he said. "In those days you couldn't box and not work. Doing both was just part of being a fighter." ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.



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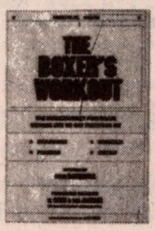

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Shane Mosley

(Continued from page 42)

heavybags. He was 23-0 and waiting for his first real fight.

Still, a visit to Sugar Shane's dressing room an hour before fight time revealed a loose (no pun intended) and confident challenger. His work in the gym, which regularly includes sparring sessions with junior middleweights, had been better than good. "I've seen him almost knock out middleweights," said Jack Mosley.

The 25-year-old Mosley, 135, Pomona, California, entered the ring to polite applause. Left Coast legend-to-be? As far as this casino-comped crowd was concerned, he was as faceless as the six-round prelim fighters who had preceded him. Winning the title would prove to be easier than winning over the fans.

Holiday, 134¾, Benoni, South Africa, was in tip-top shape, but his signature volume punching was never in evidence. He lost the first two rounds against the mobile Mosley, then retreated early in the third. Over the first 90 seconds of that round, he threw a measly 10 blows. Before the start of the fourth, Mosley was so relaxed, he sat on his stool and spoke directly into HBO's hand-held camera. (It didn't make air.)

But missing was the magic some of us thought was in store. Even in building a sizable lead, Mosley, 24-0 (22), never wowed the crowd. Not a single fan was going to return to the craps pit and tell his buddy, "You wouldn't believe the kid I just saw win the lightweight title." Mosley was moving a bit too much, and missing too often. He was consistent only with his body attack, and as a result, when Holiday, 31-1 (16), resumed his forward progress in the fourth, the South African absorbed a pounding to the midsection.

Holiday mauled Mosley in the fifth, and the challenger looked to referee Steve Smoger (USA) for help. The champion lunged when he punched, and his aggressiveness was mostly ineffective. Mosley repeatedly scored with his right in the sixth and was seemingly en route to a one-sided, albeit underwhelming, points victory.

Suddenly, the fight turned in the seventh. Mosley held when in close and finished the round by running from the champion. Holiday might not have landed a clean punch, but there was no discernible reason to score the stanza for Mosley. It was more of the same in the eighth, during which Mosley got booed. Afterward, Sugar Shane claimed it was only Holiday's South African supporters who had voiced their displeasure. Had he checked for passports? Sorry, Shane, but regardless of their rooting interests, the fans were simply reacting to what had turned into a stinker.

"In the Robinson fight, I saw where every time Ivan moved to the right, Holiday was lost," explained Mosley. "So in the seventh round, I started doing that."

Holiday didn't see it quite that way. "He ran away," he said of Mosley. "It made me feel awkward. He did what he had to do, and I suppose he had the right game plan. But when you fight for a world title, you're supposed to earn it. He didn't show he was the best boxer tonight."

Ray Robinson? Had Mosley coasted home, we might have dismissed him as an overhyped stylist who wouldn't have qualified for Sugar Ray's entourage. Not everyone from L.A. is laid back, however, and he attacked with a crude ferocity from the 10th to the 12th. He never came close to stopping Holiday, or even flooring him, but if nothing else, he gave us hope that his day-long bout with diarrhea had indeed been responsible for his flat performance.

In the 10th, Holiday stumbled after getting cracked with a hook. Before the 11th, Jack Mosley told his son, "Stay on top of his ass," and Sugar Shane did just that, crowding the champion and introducing the top of his head as a weapon. The action remained sloppy in the 12th, but only Mosley was punching.

"In the 11th and 12th I said to myself, I'm gonna get mean with him," said Mosley. "I felt maybe I could've stopped him if I had had all my strength. I wanted to knock him out, but circumstances prevented that. I had to win the fight first."

Mosley did that by unanimous decision, with Robert O'Brien (USA) scoring 117-111, Robert Paolino (USA) 116-113, and Clement Martin (South Africa) 115-114. THE RING scored for Mosley by 117-112.

There were no excuses from Holiday. The South African was in excellent condition, which had not been the case in his previous effort, a surprisingly demanding post-honeymoon battle with Pete Taliaferro. All he could offer was, "The crowd wanted to see a fight like Ivan Robinson, but Shane Mosley wouldn't allow it. He ran." Mosley motored, but he also mixed it up, and regardless of the challenger's tactics, Holiday's work rate was abysmal, at least by his standards. He threw only 710 punches (an average of 59 per round) and connected at a paltry 28 percent. The only possible explanation reflects well on Mosley: Holiday didn't punch because he didn't like it when punched back.

There were no excuses, either, from Merchant. "Maybe I laid too much expectation on him," the HBO mike man said of Mosley. "He has the talent [to be a great fighter]. It's a long way down the road before we see it."

A long way indeed. As we went to press, it seemed likely that Mosley's first two defenses would come against mediocre opposition, another South African, Naas Scheepers, and mandatory challenger Demetrio Ceballos. They didn't seem to mind in Pomona, where August 30 was Shane Mosley Day. Just don't expect those bouts on HBO.

"Coming off that performance, Mosley should take an ESPN or USA or network date," said Lou DiBella, HBO's boxing boss. "Yes, we're interested in putting him back on. But not immediately. He's gotta show what he can do when he's not ill."

Even Mosley acknowledges that he has to show all of us. "The East Coast fans haven't seen my punching power, and the West Coast fans don't know I can box," he said. "Next fight you'll see a difference."

If Mosley gives us his all, we'll give him our patience. But only for so long. Keep in mind that it's not just Merchant who has declared what might seem like ridiculously high expectations. "I accomplished my goal, but it was only one step toward my ultimate goal," Mosley said of winning the title. "My ultimate goal is to go down in the history books, to be one of the greatest."

Now that Holiday is over, it's time to go to work. ■

Griffin-Jones

(Continued from page 39)

out to fight the ninth round."

As for Griffin, 27-1 (18), the lucky train finally pulled into the station, and he was forced to disembark. After two close, controversial decisions over James Toney and the disqualification victory over Jones, when he appeared to be on the brink of defeat, the laws of chance caught up with him. Griffin's camp made some late rumblings about not receiving enough time to warm up in the locker room before the fight, but even they didn't seem to fully buy the excuse.

"We're disappointed we didn't get the proper start time, but there are no excuses," said Griffin's trainer, Thel Torrence. "When you get hit cold like that, it's difficult to handle. If Montell had come back to the corner at the end of the round, he would have been okay." And if your mother had wheels she'd be a car.

Jones, meanwhile, seemed to regain almost everything he came searching for in the Connecticut woods. He's reclaimed his portion of the light heavyweight title as well as going a long way toward silencing debate on who possesses the mythical pound-for-pound title. Though some quarters still put forth Oscar De La Hoya as boxing's best fighter (THE RING included), let it be known that Roy Jones is still the man—at least when he gets inspired once every few years.

About the only thing Jones, 35-1 (30), couldn't reclaim was his undefeated record. Or could he?

"We're pushing our appeal to the New Jersey commission and the WBC to have the loss on Roy's record changed," said Jones' co-adviser Stan Levin.

Memo to the Jones camp: Let it go, guys.

Speaking of letting something go, the rumors persist that Levin and brother Fred will be removed from team Jones. Stan Levin seemed unconcerned following the Griffin knockout.

"I don't know where the talk of a breakup is coming from," he said. "We have nothing in writing with Roy, so he can walk away anytime he wants. We developed Square Ring [Jones' promotional company] to give Roy total control."

Apparently desiring even more than total control, Jones has developed a new promotional firm, Knockout Productions, which will produce rap music, but may also handle boxing promotions. Maybe it's a sign that Jones is now so rejuvenated as a fighter he needs two promotional groups.

The loss to Griffin was clearly the incentive Jones needed to refocus himself on boxing. But where he goes next remains unclear. He is supposed to make a mandatory title defense against Michael Nunn, but the prospect of that fight hardly seems to excite anyone. There are offers of a substantial payday for a matchup against Dariusz Michalczewski in Germany, but again, where's the interest outside of Europe? Levin even put forth the wild notion Jones might drop back down to 160 pounds in order to lure De La Hoya up in weight for a pound-for-pound dream match.

Thus, Jones is so starved for inspiration to perform the way he is capable of, he dreams of fighting the big men. Hauser, an astute observer of the game and confidant of the Jones camp, favors Jones over certain heavyweights, including Michael Moorer.

"Evander, if he's motivated, is a tougher mountain to climb," Hauser said. "But Jones is better than Bobby Czyz, who went five rounds with Holyfield and never got knocked down."

On the face of it, the idea is ludicrous. Michael Spinks, several inches taller than Jones, was able to move up from light heavyweight and ambush an aging, overweight Larry Holmes. But the first time he met a good, young heavy, he was knocked out in one round by Mike Tyson. Other than Spinks, no light heavyweight champion has ever won the heavyweight title. Even Jones, himself, seemed unsure of how he would fare against a fighter the size and strength of Holyfield.

"I don't know, Evander is looking pretty diesel these days," he said.

But maybe fighting a Mack truck is the only motivation Jones has to perform at the top of his game. Reaching for something that is beyond even his grasp may be the only thing to hold his interest. ■

Mark Jacobs is a freelance writer based in White Plains, New York, and a frequent contributor to this magazine.

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Kid Lavigne

(Continued from page 45)

at a time when the lightweight class was comprised of some of the most formidable fighters of any era, Lavigne stood with the best of the division, having knocked out Joe Soto, Eddie Meyers, Johnny Griffin, and Andy Bowen (who died of a concussion afterward), and decisioning Jerry Marshall, Jack Everhardt, and Walcott. Those victories, added with the retirement early in 1896 of lightweight champion McAuliffe, led Lavigne to London, where, on June 1, 1896, at the prestigious National Sporting Club, he squared off against British champion Dick Burge for the vacant world title.

The performance was vintage Lavigne. Outboxed over the first 10 rounds, his face battered, blood streaming from his mouth and nose, Lavigne pounded Burge's midsection, flooring him twice before the bout was stopped in the 17th round. That October in New York, in his first title defense, he gave Everhardt a rematch. As he had against Burge, Lavigne trailed early, but absorbed everything Everhardt hit him with, then had him helpless against the ropes when the bout was stopped in the 24th round. In 1897, he defended three times, outdueling Kid McPartland over 25 frenetic rounds, stopping Eddie Connolly in 12, and winning again over Walcott when the Demon couldn't come out for the 13th round.

Lavigne entered 1898 seemingly invincible. Having just turned 28, and coming off the two most impressive years of his career, he looked to reign indefinitely. He was unbeaten in 45 bouts, with nothing worse than a few draws, the most recent being against Young Griffo back in 1895. Time and again he had displayed his imperviousness to pain, his stamina and recuperative powers, his savage, unyielding attack, and his incredible will to win. It seemed incomprehensible that anyone in the division could stand up to him.

So it seemed when, on March 17, 1898, Lavigne stepped into the ring at Cleveland's Central Armory to defend the title against Jack Daly of Chicago. Instead, Daly came within a whisker of scoring an upset, cutting Lavigne over the left eye in the second round, then flooring him twice in the fourth. Behind after 17 rounds, Lavigne staged a furious rally over the final three stanzas to salvage a draw.

Lavigne next defended on September 28, 1898, against Frank Erne, who had won, then lost, the featherweight title in two meetings with the immortal George Dixon. Erne, who fought much in the manner of his idol, Corbett, survived a bodyblow that sent him into the ropes in the second. He rallied after the 10th, hammering Lavigne in the 14th and closing his left eye. When Lavigne rebounded late, he found Erne more than willing to match and at times surpass him. After 20 rounds, many in attendance at Coney Island's Greater New York Athletic Club expected to see a new champion crowned, but again Lavigne escaped with a draw.

By now many wondered if Lavigne was fading. He remained unbeaten, but his two most recent defenses had ended in stalemates, not exactly in The Kid's tradition of pound-them-until-they-drop. Two days after his draw with Erne, an irked Lavigne told a reporter from the *San Francisco Examiner*, "I'm in the best shape of my career." He blamed his draws against Daly and Erne on East Coast referees "who call too many fights that go the distance draws." He preferred West Coast referees, he said, because "they aren't afraid to pick a winner." Accordingly, his next fight was back in San Francisco, an over-the-weight match against Tom Tracey, the Australian welterweight champion and a former Lavigne partner. They fought on November 25, 1898, with Lavigne taking a 20-round decision.

Lavigne was still lightweight champion and still undefeated, so it was easy to overlook the wear and tear of his many ring wars. Such trials-by-fire had become a Lavigne trademark, especially his incredible fight against Walcott, a 15-round blood-and-guts masterpiece held in Maspeth, Long Island, on December 2, 1895. Forced to make 133 pounds on the night of the bout, Walcott had to knock Lavigne out or lose the decision. For six rounds he gave Lavigne the beating of his life, doubling him over with smashes to the body and drawing blood from his mouth, nose, and ears. Lavigne, his left ear in shreds, his left eye closed, his mouth badly cut, unbelievably rallied in the last five rounds to render Walcott helpless at the final bell.

The beating he absorbed in defeating Walcott made Lavigne a ring hero of epic proportions. His reputation grew even greater with his ascension to the lightweight crown and his subsequent success as champion. No less a personage than the great John L. once praised Lavigne among "all the fighters of the present day" as "the one I most admire."

Heroes, however, often pay a high price for the idolatry conferred upon them. When he wasn't fighting or training, Lavigne had been spending considerable time as the toast of whatever town he happened to be frequenting. The night he had won the world title in London, both Lavigne and Burge had been guests of honor at a party hosted by British sportsmen, and the champagne flowed on into the early morning. Other athletes of Lavigne's era had been subjected to the evils of what newspapers then referred as "dissipation," and Lavigne was certainly no stranger to the saloons and roadhouses of his day. Eventually, even the iron constitution of a Kid Lavigne had to break down.

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After his victory over Tracey, Lavigne enjoyed life well into the New Year, being feted and lauded as only an undefeated champion could be. Then, early in February, he challenged welterweight champion Mysterious Billy Smith. The two were matched for 20 rounds at 142 pounds, on March 10, 1899, at San Francisco's Woodward's Pavilion. The fighters together would receive 60 percent of the gate receipts, with the winner getting 65 percent of that amount, the loser 35 percent. The bout also represented the opportunity for Lavigne to answer his critics, many of whom felt he had seen better days.

In his second reign as welterweight champion, Smith began training at Croll's Gardens in nearby Alameda. Not yet 28, Smith had already established a name for himself as a savage competitor who cared little for rules. In an 85-bout career, he would lose by deliberate fouling 10 times. In one of his six bouts with Walcott, he

was caught biting the top of Walcott's shaved head in a clinch. Before another, he threatened to bite Walcott's ears off. (When reassured by friends that such action would cause Smith to be disqualified, Walcott replied, "I'd rather have my ears.")

Lavigne threw himself into serious training at his favorite site, Henry Blanken's Six-Mile House in San Bruno, just south of San Francisco, running 10 to 12 miles every morning, sometimes adding several more miles on a bicycle. In the afternoons he skipped rope, punched the bags, and sparred several rounds with Arthur Walker. The weight he had added during the winter came off quickly; a writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle* noted days before the bout that Lavigne "has astonished even those best acquainted with him by his general condition and strength, notwithstanding the fear that dissipation has caused him to be slower than he was a year or so ago. From his appearance when at work in the gymnasium ... he is faster and stronger than ever."

Three days before the bout, the *San Francisco Examiner* ran several photos of Lavigne with the caption "Special Excercises and Faithful Training Have Made a Muscular Marvel of Lavigne." He would weigh 139, a career high, but the extra weight looked good, especially in the back and shoulders. Despite giving away five inches in height, Lavigne seemed unconcerned: "A tap in the stomach makes 'em come down to your size pretty quick." His prediction of victory—"I don't know [what round], but I'll get the money"—revealed his the lack of concern. Despite his hard living and a disappointing previous year, it was hard to conceive of Lavigne losing to anybody, not even Mysterious Billy Smith.

More than 5,000 fans jammed Woodward's Pavilion the night of the bout. Smith entered the ring at 9:15, accompanied by Alex Greggains, Tim McGrath, and Billy Hennessy. Lavigne arrived moments later, seconded by his brother Billy, John Herget, Tod Alexander, and Arthur Walker. Ring announcer Billy Jordan introduced both champions, Lavigne in dark trunks, Smith in light briefs. Referee Jim McDonald gave the fighters their instructions, then sent them to their corners to await the bell.

Lavigne started quickly, pounding Smith to the body and coming upstairs to unload left hooks to the head. Smith scored well at long range; in close he would tie up Lavigne with his left and pound the body with his right. Through four rounds Lavigne had the edge, but in the fifth, Smith caught him coming in with a straight right under the heart that caused Lavigne to grunt. Smith took notice; from then on, he hammered Lavigne's left side with rights.

Lavigne, bulling inside to pound the body, led after nine rounds, but in the 10th, Smith shook him with several rights to the head. In the 11th and 12th, Smith caught Lavigne coming in with left hooks to the jaw. Late in the 13th, Lavigne rallied with a left that drew blood from Smith's nose, but after the bell ended the round, his body aching from Smith's right-hand drives, he sat down heavily on his stool.

Many in attendance had seen Lavigne hurting like this before. They also knew how a minute's rest revitalized him, knew how fiercely he could rally. So it appeared in the 14th, as Lavigne rushed out, working both hands to Smith's midsection, causing him to grab and hold. Then, as the two battled near the ropes, as Lavigne came out of a crouch to throw a left hook, Smith beat him to the punch with a tremendous right to the chin.

Lavigne staggered back against the ropes, his legs braced far apart, barely able to stand. Another right by Smith caught Lavigne on the jaw, then a third and fourth. This had often been the scenario in a Lavigne fight, but those taking a beating had names like Burge, Everhardt, McPartland, and Walcott. Now it was Lavigne who was helpless, his guard down, only the ropes keeping him up. He took two more rights to the jaw and swayed. Then, as Smith readied for a finisher, Billy Lavigne rushed into the ring and, throwing his left arm around his brother, declared to referee McDonald, "He has fouled my brother right along and I won't allow any more of it!"

It may have been purely an act of compassion, but there was that word "foul." Well aware of Smith's reputation, was Billy Lavigne attempting to steal the fight from the welterweight champion? If so, his efforts were in vain as McDonald unhesitatingly declared Smith the winner.

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George Lavigne was still lightweight champion, but he was unbeaten no more.

Two days later, a doctor told Lavigne he had a fractured left rib. The original injury dated back to Lavigne's second fight against Walcott, and Smith's right to the body in the fifth round had broken the rib again. Lavigne told reporters that after the injury healed, he would defend the lightweight crown in a rematch with Erne.

The next evening, in the same ring where Lavigne had lost to Smith, Erne got off the canvas to score a seventh-round knockout over Dal Hawkins. On May 9 in New York, Erne took a 25-round decision over the dangerous George "Elbows" McFadden. His wins over Hawkins and McFadden more than earned him a rematch against Lavigne. The bout was set for July 3, 1899, at the Hawthorne Athletic Club in Cheektowaga, a suburb of Erne's adopted hometown of Buffalo, New York. Scheduled for 20 rounds, the bout would be Lavigne's seventh title defense. More importantly, it represented his chance for redemption following his loss to Smith.

Lavigne made the 135-pound weight limit easily, but after only a few rounds it was evident how badly he had slipped. Where their draw of the year before had been competitive all the way, it was all Lavigne could do to hold Erne even after 10 rounds. In the seventh, Erne staggered Lavigne in the final minute with a barrage; an injury sustained to Erne's left hand in that round saved Lavigne from a knockout. By the 20th and final round, all that remained of the once-invincible Saginaw Kid was the courage to finish. Exhausted, his arms down at his sides, his eyes swollen shut, blood pouring from his nose and mouth, Lavigne absorbed a battering as Erne, cheered on by Jim Corbett and a crowd of more than 7,000, won going away. At the final bell, referee Honest John Kelly raised Erne's hand as winner and new lightweight champion of the world. The first to congratulate Erne was the beaten Lavigne.

Though urged by friends to retire, Lavigne refused to hang up his gloves. Attempting a comeback, he agreed to face McFadden in New York, figuring that a victory would set him up for yet another

fight with rival Erne.

Instead, on October 6, 1899, those in attendance saw Lavigne suffer the most devastating defeat of his career. Only once, in the 11th round, when he nearly floored McFadden with a left to the stomach, did Lavigne look capable of victory. After the 13th, Lavigne, his left eye swollen shut, faded badly. In the 15th, McFadden floored him with a left-right to the head, and later in the round staggered him with a right to the jaw. Lavigne absorbed a beating in the 16th, then was floored again the 17th. In the 18th, he fell twice more, first from a left jab and a push, then from a right uppercut just before the bell. Up at nine, he staggered back to his corner.

Lavigne insisted on coming out for the 19th, but he had nothing left, and McFadden's first blow of the round, a right to the jaw, floored him for another count of nine. McFadden downed him twice more with the same punch, then a fourth time with a left hook behind the ear. Lavigne barely beat the count, only to go down a fifth time from a left to the body. Dead game, he arose again, even surprising McFadden with a right to the head, then scoring with a left uppercut to the chin in close, causing some in the audience to wonder if there was enough of the old Lavigne left to pull off another come-from-behind triumph.

Their hopes for a miracle were dashed quickly, however, as McFadden unloaded a left-right to the jaw that floored Lavigne for the sixth time in the round. Instinctively, he somehow got up at nine, but was out on his feet. McFadden measured him, then unloaded a tremendous left hook that caught Lavigne flush on the jaw. Lavigne crashed to the canvas, flat on his back, where he was counted out at 2:03 of the round. He remained unconscious for several minutes.

Lavigne was finished. Nearly 30, his ears cauliflowered, his eyebrows thickened with scar tissue, he looked 10 years older. Too many nights in saloons had impoverished him; he had little left of the small fortune he had earned as champion. He picked up money here and there as a sparring partner and cornerman. He would fight sporadically through the next decade, including a stoppage loss to Jimmy Britt in 1902 that left him with a battered face and a left forearm broken in three places.

On Christmas Day, 1909, in Detroit, Lavigne, an old 40, had his last real fight, against Dick Nelson. In the sixth round, with Lavigne as helpless against the ropes as he had been vs. Mysterious Billy Smith a decade before, the bout was stopped when a merciful Nelson refused to hit Lavigne anymore.

Lavigne would struggle the rest of his life, working at a variety of odd jobs before becoming a night watchman at the Ford Motor Plant in Detroit in the early-'20s. By then he was a widower, old and broken beyond his years. His ring record, a scrapbook of his glory days put together by his sister, his personalized stationery, complete with a photo of him in his prime and inscribed "George Kid Lavigne—Ex-Lightweight Champion Of The World," and his memories were all that remained of those years. In a letter written in 1923 to an acquaintance who had mailed him some photos of his early fights in San Francisco, Lavigne summed up all that he once had been, closing simply with, "Those were the happy days, eh?"

Death, in the physical sense, came to George Lavigne on March 9, 1928, in Detroit. He was 58. In reality, however, the essence of Kid Lavigne, the power and durability, the greatness that made him both champion and unbeatable for so long, had died half a lifetime before, in that fateful year of 1899. Lavigne had been born to be champion, to be invincible. When defeat finally greeted him, when it deprived him of the title, and when it ultimately left him unconcious on the canvas, he all but ceased to exist. ■

Steve Nicolaisen is a boxing historian and freelance writer based in Antelope, California.

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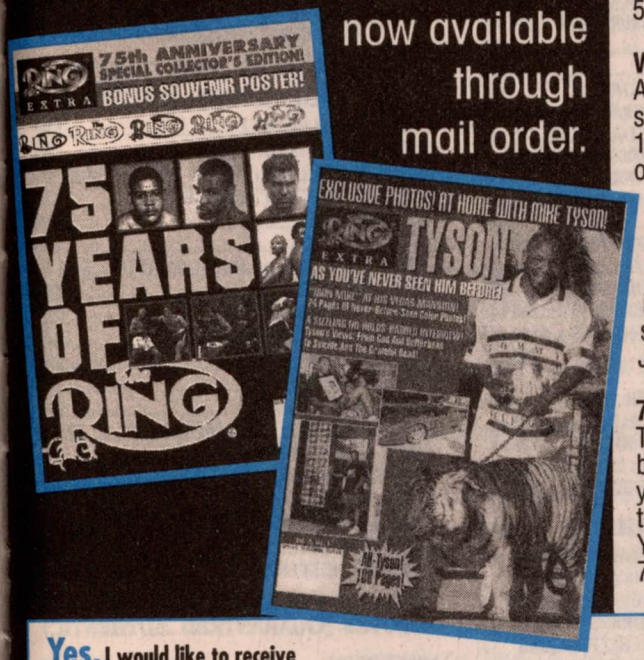

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BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

The mailbag is filling up again, and rather than reply to each inquiry individually, I've decided to answer some of the most frequently asked questions in this month's column.

How can I tell if an autograph is authentic? You can't unless you saw the fighter sign it. After that, it's just a case of who you believe. Reputable boxing dealers do exist, and only deal in quality, authentic material. And most will give a lifetime guarantee. You have to realize, however, that this doesn't mean you can return the item if and when you want to, only if there's good reason to believe the signature is bogus. You are now back to, "Who do you trust?"

What's the deal with all these auctions? How can I keep from getting burned? Anyone who participates in an auction *must* do homework first. Do not get caught up in the beauty of the catalog (or lack of it), the "estimated value" listed by the auction house, or the hype. First, find out what the items are really worth. For example, how many folks are sitting in their living rooms right now, looking at a cheap pair of cut glass earrings in an expensive display case saying, "But, ya know, they were once worn by Jackie O." Gimme a break. Now *there*, in my opinion, was an auction that hype made. A desk that the President signed something on is one thing, but did you see what else was sold in the former First Lady's auction? Don't get caught up in ballyhoo. Instead, prowl the publications and talk to knowledgeable folks who are not connected in any way with the auction. Of course, hype isn't illegal. In fact, it's the American way. Just remember that it's boxing collectibles you're after, not glitz.

What should I collect? Okay, if you have to ask this, you aren't really lost, even though you think you are. My experience is that your collecting will find its own way. Some folks like the truly rare and expensive, and even citizens of limited means will save and then take home that one thing. Others like lots of inexpensive things. Me? I like lots of expensive things—but I can't afford them, so I usually end up going for the latter. Some people go for the "deals." They seldom describe the items they own, they just tell you how little they had to pay for them. I don't demean these guys. They're enjoying the hobby their way. But whatever you collect, don't fool yourself into thinking you are investing. You may or may not be, but you won't know for sure until you sell, and then it's gone. What's the point of saying, "The poster that was hanging there turned out to be a good investment"? Just do your homework and buy what you like.

How do I safeguard and display my stuff? This is a really important question. Hobby publications have a host of mylar products that many people swear by. I have been using them for more than 15 years. Some say there are better archival materials. I say if I have to put something between opaque sheets of paper, you're never going to see them. It's up to you, but there are a couple of things you must do: If you frame something, you should use UV glass and a museum mount with acid-free paper. Never frame anything against glass or have anything laminated. In framing something, the less damage that has to be done to the piece the better. Do not dry mount expensive posters. Do not use sticky hinges to mount tickets or cards. There are other ways to frame these without paper loss.

Is a program worth less if it is scored inside? Is a signature worth less if it is inscribed? The short answer is yes to both questions, except for one exception. Sometimes an inscription lends credence to a rare signature. Lots of folks have innocently written the names of the fighters on old photos. These are not autographs. Some bogus signatures are also inscribed, but fewer than the uninscribed.

What's the best boxing card in the hobby? I like the pre-1900 John L. Sullivan cards for staying power, but the 1948 Leaf Rocky Graziano is the one that has fetched the highest price so far.

Who is the toughest, most sought-after autograph? Hands down, ex-heavyweight champ Marvin Hart. Add Joe Gans, George Dixon, Les Darcy, Paddy Ryan, Young Griffo, and Stanley Ketchel to the select group that the advanced collectors are always seeking. Also, any bareknuckle champion. The two hardest modern fighters are Salvador Sanchez and Marcel Cerdan, for obvious reasons.

Who is the most "collectible" fighter? The guy who is most in demand is Muhammad Ali, but the supply is also great because Ali has signed thousands of items through the years. In fact, Ali collectibles in general are perhaps the most varied and numerous among all the boxers in history. Programs, posters, advertising items, etc. can be had, usually at reasonable prices. The official program for the Foreman fight is exceedingly rare (and has been counterfeited in the past), but the Frazier I and II programs are easy to find in hobby publications. And you can get Ali to sign them at one of the numerous card shows he appears at each year. Most of these events also encourage mail-ins.

What are my RING MAGAZINES worth? I have a reprint of an earlier article on this subject that I will send you if you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address listed below. ■

*Don Scott is editor and publisher of **Boxing Collectors' News** and can be reached at 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007.*

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of July 1997, the WBC as of June 1997, and the IBF as of August 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Akinwande (GB)	1	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	2	6
Orlin Norris (USA)	3	5	9
David Tua (NZ)	4	12	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	5	4	10
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	5
Francois Botha (SA)	7	1	2
John Ruiz (USA)	8	6	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	9	8	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	10	3	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	14	7	–
Jerry Ballard (USA)	26	9	–
Adilson Rodriguez (BRA)	–	10	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Obed Sullivan (USA)	16	–	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	–	–	7
Chris Byrd (USA)	15	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	7	–
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	2	2	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	3	5	–
Torsten May (GER)	4	6	7
Johnny Nelson (GB)	5	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	6	3	11
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	8	–	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	9	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	10	10	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Adopho Washington (USA)	–	4	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	8	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	9	5
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	24	12	4
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	8
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	22	11	9
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Montell Griffin (USA)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	C
Roy Jones (USA)	1	2	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	5	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	3	3	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	–	6
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	7	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	6	9	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	7	8	12
Chris Eubank (GB)	8	11	–
Richard Frazier (USA)	9	10	11
Mark Prince (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	3
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	4	4
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	16	6	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Berry (USA)	21	–	9
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	2	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	3	1	5
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	4	9	4
Henry Wharton (GB)	5	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	6	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	7	–	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	8	–	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	9	3	7
Eric Lucas (CAN)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	14	2	3
Leif Keiski (SWE)	26	4	–
Herol Graham (GB)	–	5	–
Francis Dean (GB)	–	6	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	12	7	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	23	8	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	10	6
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	8
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	7	5
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	2	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	6	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	6	–	–
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	7	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	8	–	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	9	8	–
Brian Barbosa (USA)	10	4	6
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	20	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Robert Allen (USA)	12	5	7
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	15	9	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	21	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	–	8
Rogerio Cacciatore (BRA)	24	–	9
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	C
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	1	11	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	2	2	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	3	–	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	4	6	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	5	–	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	6	10	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	7	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	8	1	3
Chang Taek Kim (KOR)	9	–	–
Tarick Salmaci (SYR)	10	–	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	3	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	4	11
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	5	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	–	7	–
Jason Papillion (USA)	21	8	4
Kevin Kelly (USA)	–	9	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	18	–	8
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	20	–	9
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	3	1
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	2	2	3
Derrell Coley (USA)	3	4	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	9	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	5	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
Robert West (USA)	7	–	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	8	–	–
Diobelys Hurtado (CUBA)	9	–	–
Edwin Rosario (PR)	10	–	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	6	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	11	7	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	23	8	–
Juan Negron (PR)	29	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	5
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	6
Purcell Miller (USA)	–	–	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	9
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	5	5	5
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	6	3	2
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	7	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	8	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	9	–	9
Reggie Green (USA)	10	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	4	3
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	11	6	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	7	–
Ray Oliveira (USA)	13	8	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	9	6
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	4
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	8
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	3	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	4	1	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	5	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Marco Rudolph (GER)	8	–	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	9	5	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	10	4	11
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	16	2	2
Angel Mona (FRA)	–	6	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	7	8
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	20	8	–
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	9	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	10	9
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	24	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	4
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	11	5
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	6
Pete Taliaferro (USA)	–	–	7
Wilson Palacio (COL)	21	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	1	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	2	5	1
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	3	6	–
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	4	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	5	7	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	11	10
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	7	–	–
Jesus Chavez (USA)	8	–	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	28	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	3	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	4	4
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	8	–
Miguel Casilias (MEX)	–	9	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	10	–
Harold Warren (USA)	16	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	–	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	–	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	11	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	1	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	8	3
Manuel Medina (MEX)	4	–	–
Jose Noyola (MEX)	5	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	6	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	7	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	8	–	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	9	–	–
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	10	7	4
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	5
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	4	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	5	–
Hector Arroyo (PR)	–	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	22	9	7
Roque Cassiani (COL)	–	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	8
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	9
Edward Barrios (COL)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	2	9
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	3	9	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	4	3	8
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	5	–	6
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	6	7	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	7	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	8	–	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	9	5	2
Spencer Oliver (GB)	10	4	5
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	15	1	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	6	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	12	8	–
Angel Rosario (PR)	25	10	–
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Valdir Matias (BRA)	–	–	7
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	2	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	12	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	4	–	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	5	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	6	–	8
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	9	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	8	–	6
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	9	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	10	–	5
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	5	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	11	7	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	16	8	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	10	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	17	–	3
Wilson Alcorro (COL)	–	–	4
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	–	–	7
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	3	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	4	–	9
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	5	3	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	6	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	7	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	8	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	12	–
Hipolito Saucedo (USA)	10	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	8
Andy Agosto (PR)	13	4	4
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	5	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	7	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	9	–
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	10	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	15	–	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	23	–	7
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

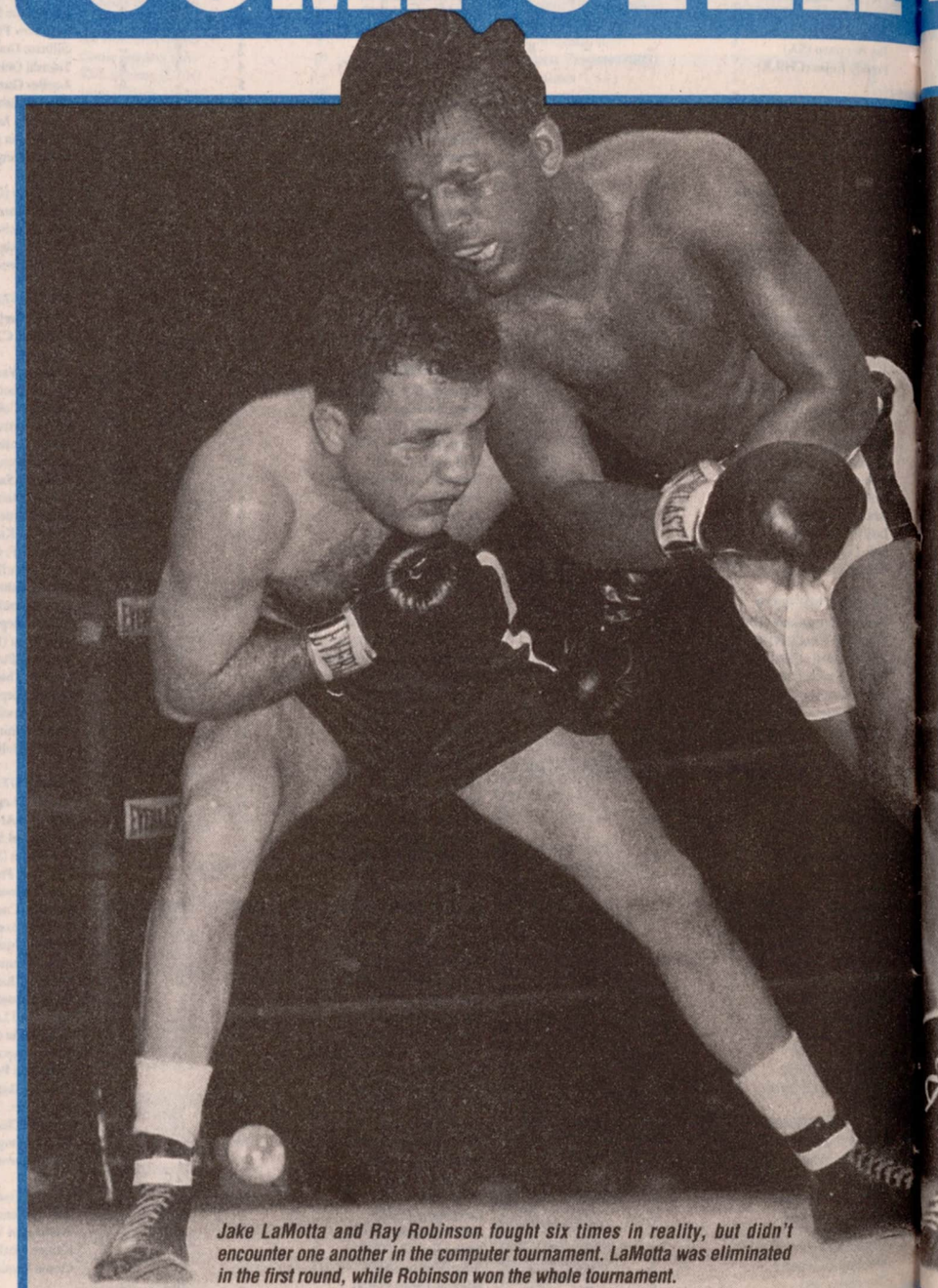
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	2	12	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	3	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	5	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	6	11	–
David Guerault (FRA)	7	–	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	8	4	9
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	9	–	8
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	3	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	28	5	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	6	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	7	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	8	3
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	–	9	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	21	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ilido Julio (COL)	25	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	30	–	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	11	8
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	4	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	5	8	10
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	6	6	11
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	7	5	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	8	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	9	–	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	10	4	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	2	3
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	3	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	7	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	2
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	6
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	7
Juan Cordoba (ARG)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	–	5
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	4	–	9
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	5	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	6	9	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	7	12	2
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	8	–	12
Lindi Memani (SA)	9	11	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	5	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	24	6	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	7	4
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	30	8	–
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	15	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	6
Wellington Vicente (BRA)	–	–	7
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	22	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

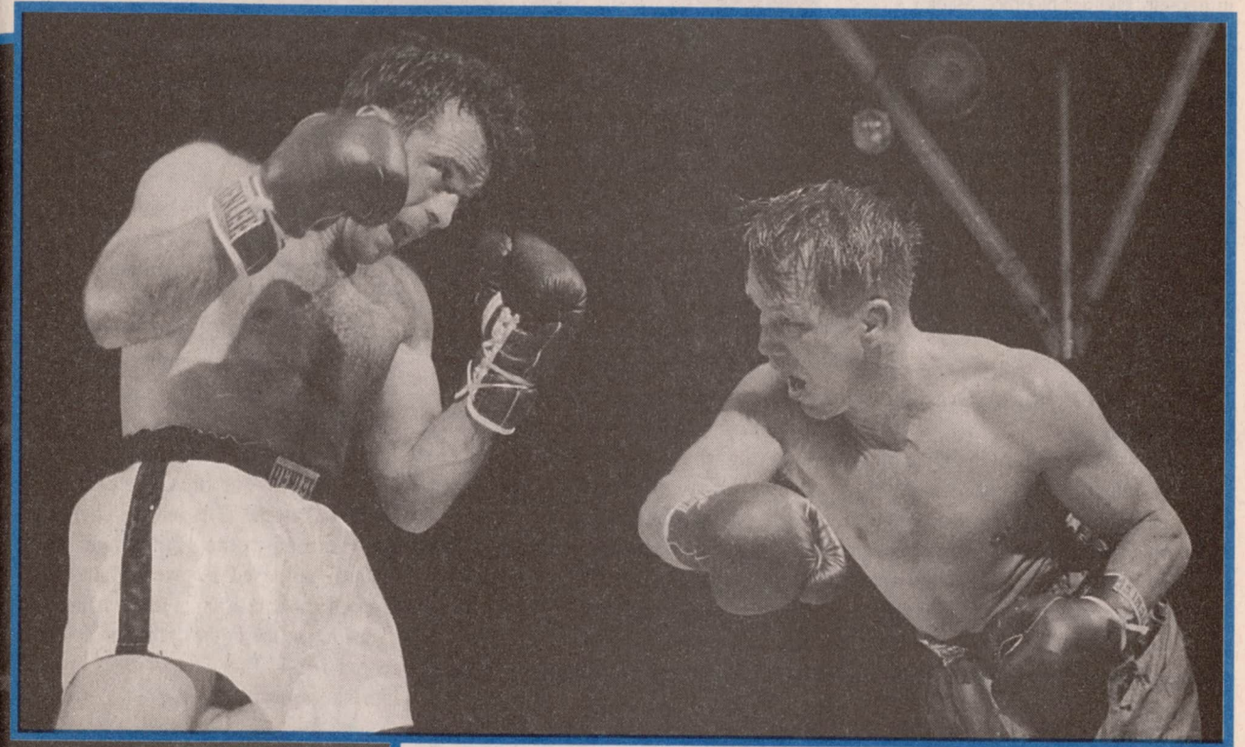
RING CLASSIC

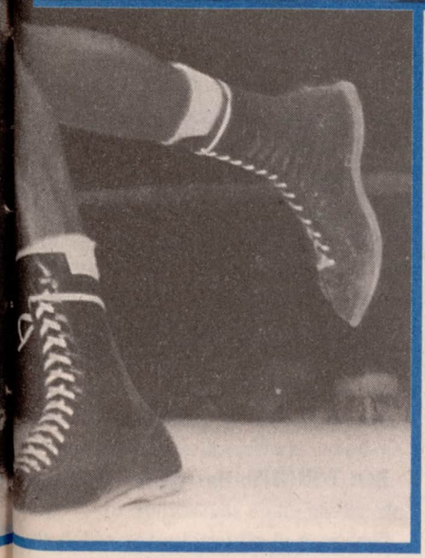
ALL-TIME MIDDLEWEIGHT COMPUTER TOURNAMENT



Jake LaMotta and Ray Robinson fought six times in reality, but didn't encounter one another in the computer tournament. LaMotta was eliminated in the first round, while Robinson won the whole tournament.

From THE RING, March & April 1969





Marcel Cerdan (left) reached the semifinals with a fourth-round knockout of Carmen Basilio and a 10th round TKO victory over Emile Griffith. Tony Zale (right) was not so lucky, falling in the first round of the tournament to Harry Greb. Zale was knocked out in the 14th round.

The Ring herewith presents summaries of the computerized "All-Time Middleweight Championships Tournament" as presented on radio throughout the United States with Guy LeBow and Murry Woroner at dream ringside. (Editor's Note: This is a condensed version.)

BOUT ONE: Carmen Basilio vs. Marcel Cerdan

Cerdan took the first round as he packed the heavier artillery. Round two was more of the same. Cerdan scored the first knockdown in the third with a hard right to the chin. Basilio bounced up after the count and dumped Cerdan to the mat with a looping right. He then floored Cerdan again with a left. In the fourth, Cerdan unleashed a brutal body attack, stunning Basilio. A vicious right to the head and a left to the jaw and it was all over, a knockout at 1:10 of the fourth, moving the Frenchman into the quarterfinals.

BOUT TWO: Kid McCoy vs. Emile Griffith

The first four rounds were practically even, as McCoy's style seemed to have Griffith baffled. McCoy kept his stabbing left

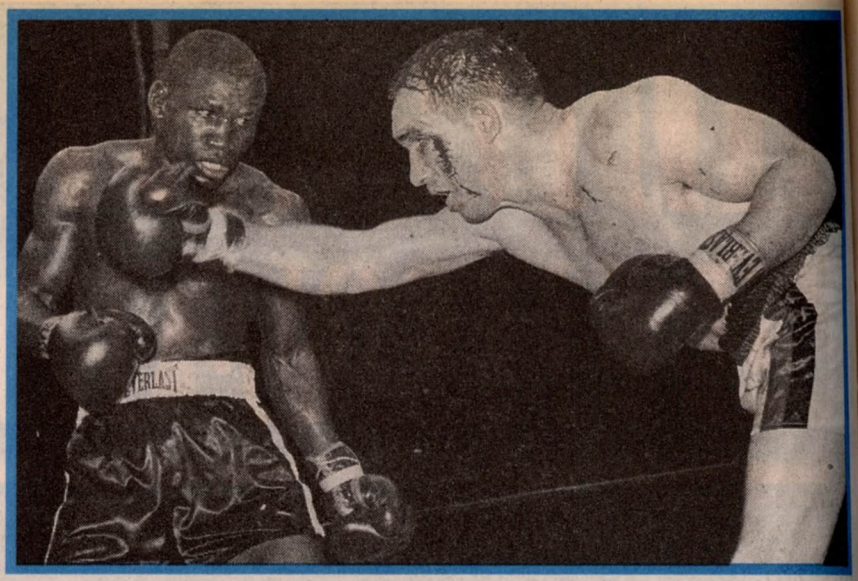
in Griffith's face, opening a cut in the fourth. Griffith builds a lead as he becomes the aggressor. In rounds 12 and 13, McCoy remembered his right hand. Griffith moved better in the 15th and won a close decision victory, with the computer scoring 145-141. Griffith moves into the quarterfinals.

BOUT THREE: Stanley Ketchel vs. Gene Fullmer

They slugged it out in the first round, with Ketchel having a slight edge. Ketchel drew blood from Gene's eye in the second and showed mastery in picking off punches in mid-air. Fullmer bloodied Stanley's nose with a sharp hook. They traded for half-a-minute in the fourth, with Fullmer landing the heavier blows. In the fifth, Ketchel exploded a powerful left that floored Fullmer for a count of nine. In the sixth, a left-right again downed Fullmer. Fullmer was bleeding badly. Ketchel's attack was merciless in the seventh. With Gene unable to defend himself, referee Ruby Goldstein awarded Ketchel a TKO win, moving him into the quarterfinals.

BOUT FOUR: Rocky Graziano vs. Tiger Flowers

Flowers started fast, taking three of the first five rounds. Graziano seemed to be head-hunting as Flowers outworked him with softer shots. Then Graziano brought his right hand into action. He dropped "The Georgia Deacon" twice in the sixth, again in the seventh, twice more in the eighth, and once in the ninth. There was another knockdown in the 11th, but Flowers refused to stay down. Graziano finally finished his man at 1:08 of the 12th, advancing to the quarterfinals.



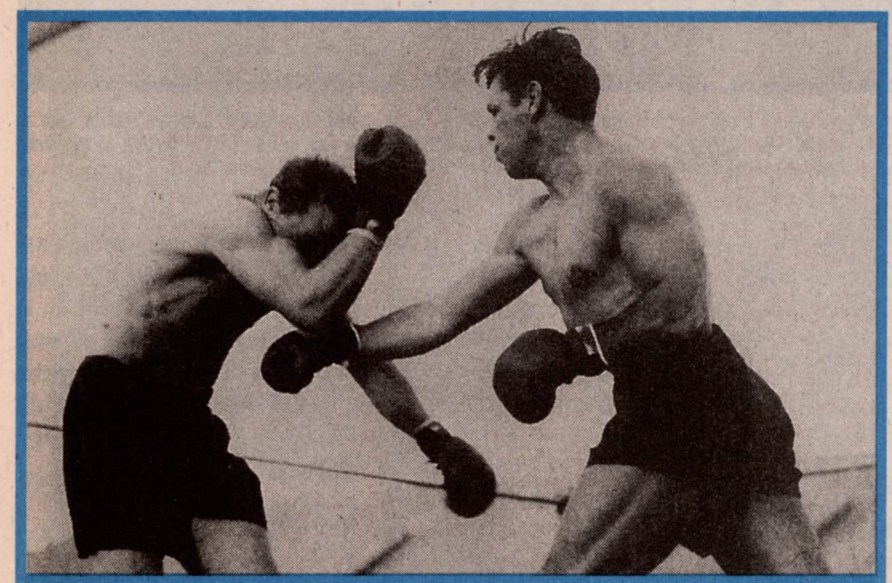
Dick Tiger and Gene Fullmer were both left battered and bloodied after tough defeats in the tournament's first round. Tiger was upended by Mickey Walker in the ninth stanza, while eventual finalist Stanley Ketchel stopped Fullmer with a seventh round TKO.

BOUT FIVE: Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Nonpareil Jack Dempsey

Robinson captured every round, finally finishing the Nonpareil in the 11th. Robinson's style and speed overwhelmed Dempsey. Though he did occasionally take a hard shot, Sugar Ray seemed to be toying with the man from the 19th century. With Dempsey almost helpless in the 11th, referee Goldstein stopped the bout at the 1:20 mark, moving Robinson into the quarterfinals.

BOUT SIX: Bob Fitzsimmons vs. Jake LaMotta

The first nine rounds were virtually even, with the score Fitzsimmons 88 and LaMotta 86. Both had landed jolting shots, but Fitz had scored with the heavier artillery. In the 10th, Fitz jolted Jake with a terrific left to the head, flooring "The Bronx Bull." LaMotta came back in the 11th, but the momentum again turned in the 12th, when "Ruby Robert" unloosed a powerful attack. He dropped LaMotta again in the 14th, and they traded toe to toe in the 15th. The computer scored 147-140 for Fitzsimmons, moving him into the quarterfinals.



Mickey Walker (right) had an excellent showing, advancing all the way to the semifinals. He eked by Harry Greb in the quarterfinals despite suffering a badly cut eye in the ninth. The last two rounds of the bout are considered the most action-packed in the history of computer boxing.

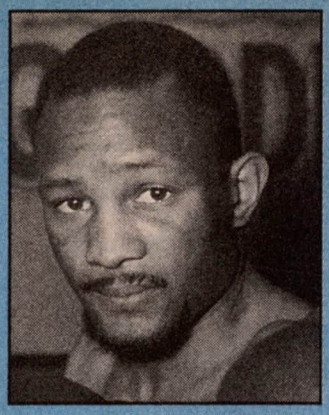
BOUT SEVEN: Mickey Walker vs. Dick Tiger

The pattern was established from the opening bell, as Walker, moving well, landed a couple of bombs, but took some shots as well. Walker's superior punching power shook up Tiger. Rounds four through eight had Walker stepping up the pace, the punishment taking its toll on Tiger. In the ninth, Walker drove a brutal left to the body and a murderous right under the heart. A smashing hook to the chin sent Tiger to the canvas for the full count at 26 seconds of the round. Walker advanced to the quarterfinals.

BOUT EIGHT: Harry Greb vs. Tony Zale

Greb jumped off fast, landing with both

THE RING RATINGS, April 1969



Curtis Cokes

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Cassius Clay, Houston, TX
1. **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY
3. **Sonny Liston**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Buster Mathis**, Grand Rapids, MI
7. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
8. **Leotis Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Manuel Ramos**, Mexico
10. **Floyd Patterson**, New York, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Dick Tiger**, Biafra
2. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina
3. **Tom Bogs**, Denmark
4. **Bob Dunlop**, Australia
5. **Yvan Prebeg**, Yugoslavia
6. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
7. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
8. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
9. **Eddie Jones**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Jimmy Rosette (James)**, San Diego, CA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nino Benvenuti, Italy
1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
2. **Stan Hayward**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
4. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
5. **Sandro Mazzinghi**, Italy
6. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH
7. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
8. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
9. **Carlos Monzon**, Argentina
10. **Freddie Little**, Las Vegas, NV

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Curtis Cokes, Dallas, TX
1. **Jose Napoles**, Mexico
2. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
3. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
5. **Raul Soriano**, Mexico
6. **Fighting Mack**, Holland
7. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
8. **Johann Orsolics**, Austria
9. **Carmelo Bossi**, Italy
10. **Joe Shaw**, New York, NY

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Locche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Pedro Adigue**, Philippines
3. **Paul Fujii**, Honolulu, HI
4. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
5. **Barrera Corpus**, Spain
6. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
7. **Willi Quatour**, Germany
8. **German Gastelbondo**, Colombia
9. **Juan Sombrita**, Spain
10. **Rodrigo Valdes**, Colombia

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos (Teo) Cruz, Dominican Republic
1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland
4. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
5. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
6. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico
7. **Frankie Narvaez**, Puerto Rico
8. **Mando Ramos**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Jaguar Kazikawa**, Japan
10. **Carlos Aro**, Argentina

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan
1. **Yoshiaki Numata**, Japan
2. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina
4. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
5. **Arturo Lomeli**, Mexico
6. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
7. **Pete Gonzalez**, San Jose, CA
8. **Rokuro Ishiyama**, Japan
9. **Len Kesey**, Eugene, OR
10. **Don Johnson**, Los Angeles, CA

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Johnny Famechon, Australia
1. **Jose Legra**, Spain
2. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
3. **Fighting Harada**, Mexico
4. **Jose Jimenez**, Mexico
5. **Cruz Marcano**, Venezuela
6. **Dwight Hawkins**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
8. **Felipe Torres**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Bobby Valdez**, San Diego, CA
10. **Raul Rojas**, San Pedro, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lionel Rose, Australia
1. **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico
2. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
3. **Domi Manalang**, Philippines
4. **Kazuyoshi Kanazawa**, Japan
5. **Alan Rudkin**, England
6. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
7. **Jesus Pimental**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
9. **Johnny Clark**, England
10. **Franco Zurlo**, Italy

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Chartchai Chionoi, Thailand
1. **Efren Torres**, Mexico
2. **Bernabe Villacampo**, Philippines
3. **Jose Severino**, Brazil
4. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
5. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua
6. **Yoshiaki Matsumoto**, Japan
7. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
8. **Walter McGowan**, Scotland
9. **Erbito Salavarria**, Philippines
10. **Fernando Atzori**, Italy

hands. Greb had Zale bleeding badly from the mouth, while he himself was cut on the eye. Greb took the fourth and fifth, slamming some tremendous shots home. He kept the momentum in the sixth, seventh, and eighth, as Zale couldn't seem to fathom his style. Zale's mouth bled profusely in the ninth and 10th. In the 11th, 12th, and 13th, Zale, fighting back, showed his courage, but absorbed a terrible beating. In the 14th, Zale was floored for a nine-count by a right to the jaw. A vicious right to the jaw finished Zale, who was counted out 1:31 into the round, sending Greb into the quarterfinals.

Walker and Greb shake hands before engaging in their thrilling quarterfinal contest.

QUARTERFINALS

BOUT NINE: Marcel Cerdan vs. Emile Griffith

The first five rounds went to Cerdan as he poured far more leather than Griffith could handle. Cerdan's attack varied from head to body. Cerdan jolted Griffith in the fourth with a tremendous left hook. Griffith was hurt again in the fifth and seventh. The eighth was Griffith's best round as he poured in punches at a two-to-one rate. Cerdan came back in the ninth, with Griffith seemingly running out of gas. In the 10th, Cerdan unloaded a terrific right, flooring Griffith for a nine-count. When Emile got up, he was the victim of some smashing lefts and rights to the jaw. With Griffith almost helpless against the ropes, Goldstein intervened and stopped the contest at the 1:26 mark, sending Cerdan to the semifinals.

BOUT TEN: Stanley Ketchel vs. Rocky Graziano

The fight opened quickly, with Rocky landing hard to the head and Ketchel shooting to both head and body. Ketchel got in a good hook late in the first to floor Rocky. In rounds two and three, both slammed in bombs. Rocky opened a small cut on Ketchel's eye in the second and made Stanley's nose bleed in the third. Bleeding from everywhere, Ketchel downed Graziano with a left hook in the fourth. The blistering pace was maintained in the fifth, during which Ketchel opened a cut over Graziano's eye. In the sixth, Graziano jolted Ketchel with three thunderous rights but couldn't put him down. More of the same in the seventh. In the eighth, Rocky dropped Ketchel twice with rights, but the tough "Michigan Assassin" wouldn't stay down. In the ninth, Ketchel dropped Graziano twice. Both fighters went down in the hectic 11th, and in the 12th, a booming hook floored Graziano for the count at the 2:29 mark, sending Ketchel to the semifinals.

BOUT ELEVEN: Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Bob Fitzsimmons

Robinson began with a slashing attack to the eyes. He cut Fitz severely on the inside of the right eye in the first. He concentrated on that cut, and the result was that Fitz lost all vision in the eye. In the second, Fitz' left eye began to swell, too. Robinson dominated the action completely. In the third, he increased the severity of his attack, prompting Goldstein to step in at the 2:10 mark, which sent Robinson to the semifinals.

BOUT TWELVE: Harry Greb vs. Mickey Walker

Walker got off to a fast start and took the first three rounds. The fourth and fifth went to Greb as he landed the more effective punches. The sixth was even, with both middleweights landing bombs. After an even ninth, Walker, bleeding from a cut eye, took the 10th and 11th. Greb came back stronger than ever to win the 12th and 13th. Rounds 14 and 15 were two of the most action-packed in boxing computer history. Both were scored as even. The computer scored 146-144 for Walker, who advanced to the semifinals.

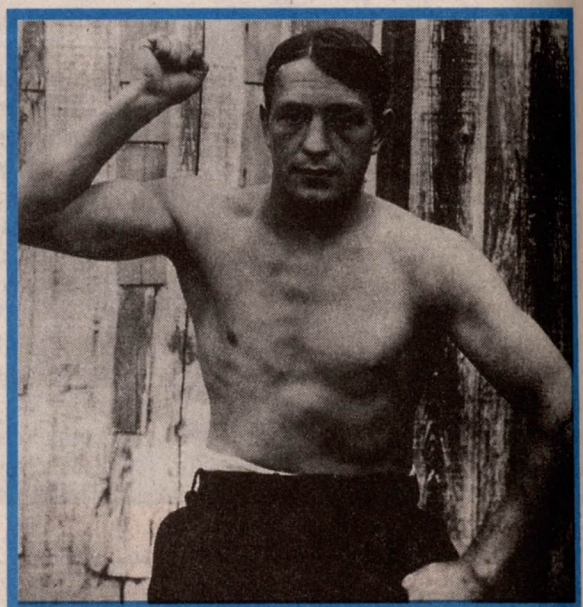
SEMIFINALS

BOUT THIRTEEN: Stanley Ketchel vs. Marcel Cerdan

Cerdan traded with Ketchel in the first few rounds and came off better. In round four, he had Ketchel hurt and stumbling, but his deadly left hook could not put "The Michigan Assassin" down. Ketchel began to turn the fight in the sixth. In the seventh, a hook dropped Cerdan, and in the ninth, the Frenchman was downed twice more. There was a sudden turnaround in the 10th, when a right felled a startled Ketchel. The knockdown awoke Ketchel, who roared back. The fighters scored one more knockdown each before Ketchel ended it at the 2:08 mark of the 12th, dropping Cerdan for the count. Ketchel advanced to the finals.

BOUT FOURTEEN: Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Mickey Walker

Sugar Ray took the opening round, out-



Grand Rapids, Michigan native Stanley Ketchel had a sensational tournament, defeating Gene Fullmer, Rocky Graziano, and Marcel Cerdan—all by knockout—en route to the tournament finals.

THE RING, April 1969

Victorious: Sugar Ray Robinson and his cornermen celebrate a hard-earned triumph in the All-Time Middleweight Computer Tournament. Robinson outpointed Stanley Ketchel in the finals, taking the last three rounds decisively to score a 147-139 win.

boxing Mickey. Walker caught up to Robinson in the second, lost the third and fourth, then jolted the Sugarman in the fifth with a smashing right to the head. In the sixth and seventh, Robinson made Walker miss while landing his own bombs. Walker crowded Robinson in the eighth and ninth, hurting him with combinations. They seesawed in the championship rounds, with Robinson fighting cautiously in the 15th. After the final bell, the computer scored for Sugar Ray by 145-141, sending him to the finals.

FINALS

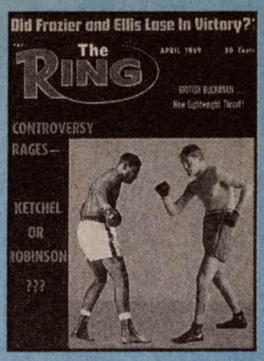
BOUT FIFTEEN: Stanley Ketchel vs. Sugar Ray Robinson

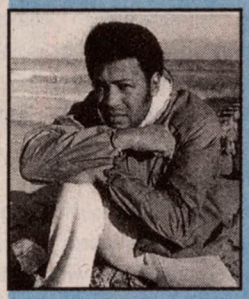
Robinson opened by boxing, but Ketchel established the terms by downing Sugar Ray with a smashing right in the opening session. Both landed in the second, but Robinson, aiming for the body, connected with the better shots. There was a bruising flurry at the end of the fourth; neither fighter had yet established command. Robinson jabbed in the fifth, and Ketchel introduced his right to the body. By the sixth, Ketchel's nose was battered and bleeding. Robinson dominated that stanza. Robinson moved Ketchel to the ropes in the seventh, and buckled his knees with a hook, but "The Michigan Assassin" kept punching back. The pace was brutal.

In the eighth, Ketchel's hammers convinced Robinson to dance away. Robinson came back in the ninth, and the middleweights traded viciously to the body. Ketchel took the 11th, and the fighters began the championship rounds showing the wounds of war; Ketchel had a swollen eye and a bloody nose, and Robinson was lumpy on both brows. The 12th saw fighting at close quarters, and in the 13th, Ketchel kept Sugar Ray on his heels, only to lose the last minute of the round. Sugar Ray enjoyed a strong 14th, again aiming to the body. In the last round, Ketchel was rocked on two occasions. Robinson tried for the kayo, but was unsuccessful.

The computer scores the fight—and the championship—for Robinson by 147-139. ■

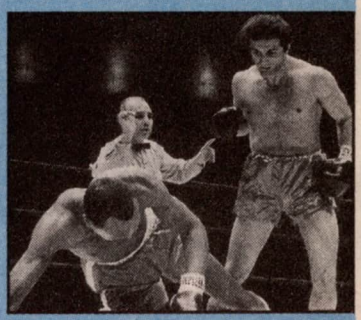
The Cover: Sugar Ray Robinson squares off with fellow middleweight legend Stanley Ketchel. The 160-pounders, who reigned more than 40 years apart, clash in the championship bout of the computerized middleweight tournament. The result creates quite a bit of controversy.

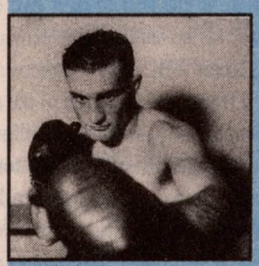




The Heavyweight Picture: Confusion reigns. After outpointing Oscar Bonavena, New York State world champion Joe Frazier is looking at a bout with Jerry Quarry. And after scoring a controversial decision over Floyd Patterson, WBA titlist Jimmy Ellis (pictured) is in limbo. Dan Daniel wonders: Is there any chance of a unified heavyweight title?

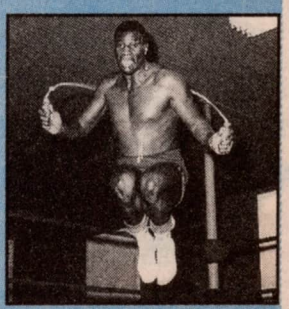
Foster-DePaula Slugfest: A mismatch? Maybe so, but as reported by George Girsch, fans at Madison Square Garden saw incredible action in the 137 seconds it took light heavyweight champion Bob Foster to dispose of Frankie DePaula. After getting dumped himself (some observers thought it to be a push), Foster dropped the challenger three times for an automatic stoppage.





Man Of Steele: Former middleweight champion Freddie Steele is profiled by Jack D. Hopkins. Growing up, Steele, a native of Tacoma, Washington, idolized Tod Morgan. And like the former junior lightweight champion, Steele became a dangerous puncher, losing only five of 138 career bouts.

Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight contender Buster Mathis is the winner based on his unanimous decision victory over the top-five rated George Chuvalo. Others who received consideration were light heavyweight champion Bob Foster (KO 1 Frankie DePaula) and middleweight Emile Griffith (W 10 Andy Heilman).



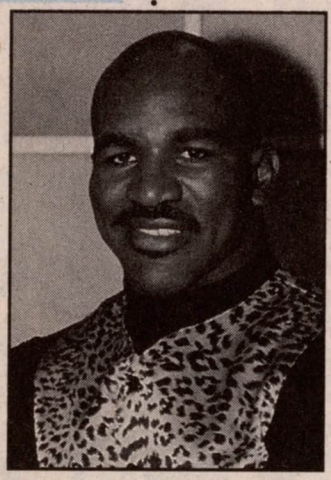
LOOKING AHEAD

By Nigel Collins

POPULARITY PAYOFF

While Evander Holyfield's November 8 unification bout with IBF champ Michael Moorer isn't expected to do the same sort of pay-per-view numbers as "The Real Deal's" rematch with Mike Tyson (just over two million buys), the WBA heavyweight king could very well be moving up to a new PPV plateau.

"Traditionally, Evander's pay-per-view ratings depended on the match," said Jay Larkin, executive producer of *Showtime Championship Boxing*. "But since his two victories over Tyson, Evander has attracted a whole new following. We're hopeful that he's at a point where his appeal will transcend the matchup, but we're not counting on it. When putting together a pay-per-view fight, we base our economics on a worst-case scenario. Of course, fighters at Evander's level usually get a piece of the upside."



Holyfield: Pay-Per-View champ

Should Holyfield get past Moorer, and should the PPV buy rate reflect his growing popularity, there are abundant matches waiting to be made. But whether or not Commander Vander is interested in sticking around long enough to reap the bounty is another question.

"Evander is already the highest-paid pay-per-view performer on the planet," said Larkin. "He wants to be paid well for what he does, but I don't think it's the money that's driving him; it's the sense of accomplishment."

Larkin's probably right, but when it comes to quantifying accomplishment, the almighty dollar is still the undisputed champion.

LISTEN UP

Rumor has it that **George Foreman** is trying to weasel out of his November 22 date on HBO with unbeaten puncher **Hasim "The Rock" Rhaman** at Foxwoods in Ledyard, Connecticut ... If the card does come off as scheduled, look for **David Tua** to make make his first start since losing a close decision to **Ike Ibeabuchi**. The Samoan slugger has been sidelined while recuperating from surgery to remove bone chips from his left elbow. No opponent for Tua had been named by press time, but Main Events matchmaker **Carl Moretti** says, providing that Tua prevails on November 22, he'd like to match him with the **Shannon Briggs-Lou Savarese** winner ... **Oscar De La Hoya** will be making his Atlantic City debut, December 6, on TVKO. **Wilfredo Rivera**, who gave **Pernell Whitaker** a tough fight in the first of their two encounters, will be pitted against "The Golden Boy" ... It will be the battle of the Hernandezes on November 20 at the Olympic Auditorium in L.A., when WBC super featherweight titlist **Genaro Hernandez** tackles **Carlos Hernandez**, a friend and gymmate of the defending champion, but no relation ... **Don King** won a purse bid to stage **Vince Phillips'** IBF junior welterweight title defense against mandatory challenger **Freddie Pendleton**. King is still searching for a site ... King will also promote a bout between **Hector Lizarraga** and **Welcome Ncita** for the IBF featherweight title that was left vacant when **Naseem Hamed** chose to relinquish the belt rather than fight Lizarraga. Date and site still not set.

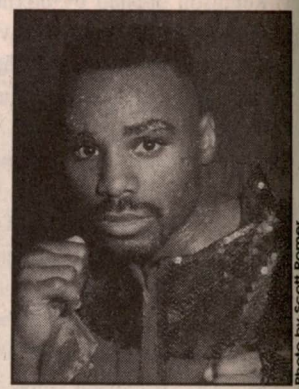


Photo by Scott Romer

Pendleton: Next for Phillips

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Mark Johnson	Jake Matlata	2-1	Johnson has too much firepower
Oscar De La Hoya	Wilfredo Rivera	20-1	Nice East Coast tune up for Oscar
George Foreman	Hasim Rahman	8-5	Not impressed with Rahman
Pernell Whitaker	Ike Quartey	7-5	Great fight. Can't wait to see it

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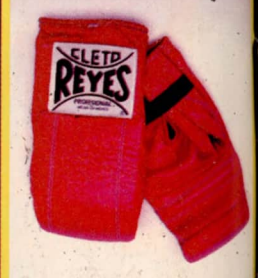

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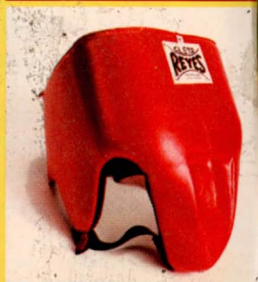

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